MIDLANDS

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

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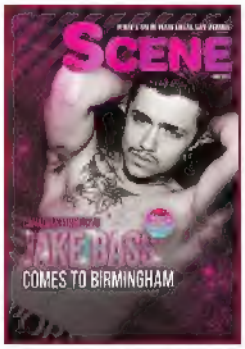

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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

'Flaming June' is here, and we hope we've got a suitably 'hot' edition of Midlands Zone for you to enjoy this month - awash, as it is, with photos, comment and news from the Spring Bank Holiday weekend Birmingham Pride event.

Brum Pride success!

And what a weekend of celebration it was, with everybody determined to ensure a good time was had by all despite the less-than-ideal weather.

This year's Carnival Parade took the theme of Equality And Freedom Around The World, and was kickstarted by a rousing speech from LGBT and human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell. The procession wound its way from Victoria Square down to the gay village, ensuring Pride 2014 got off to a suitably colourful and high-spirited start.

From thereon in, the fun just kept on happening, with tens of thousands of revellers revelling (as they tend to do!) and attendees of all ages enjoying the popular music stages at Pride.

Despite the huge success overall, one aspect of Pride almost certainly didn't hit the mark in terms of community engagement. One of the very few free aspects of Pride is the Community Village Green, and despite the commercial side of Pride being a huge success, the one and only community area seemed to be an afterthought by the event's organisers. One such example of this was the almost-always empty 'village green' lacking any form of 'grass' - real or fake. On page 35, we offer our suggestion on how we think the Village Green could be resituated to a more integral part of the Pride site, whilst still remaining free of charge.

However, on the positive side of Pride, congratulations must, of course, go to the event's organisers, and indeed to each and every individual who gave their time and energy to ensure that 2014's Birmingham Pride was another event to remember.

Check out the 16 page 'Pride in Pictures' pages in this issue of Midlands Zone magazine to relive a Bank Holiday weekend of fantastic fun and entertainment - and roll on 2015's two-day extravaganza!

An alarming statistic...

Away from Birmingham Pride, but still on the subject of the Pride 2014 theme - Equality And Freedom Around The World - recent research from the International Lesbian & Gay Association has shown that more than 2.7billion people live in countries where being gay is punishable by imprisonment, lashes or even death. Five countries - Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen - still have a statutory death penalty for homosexuality, while a further 71 countries punish same-sex couples with lesser sentences of imprisonment or corporal punishment.

Scoring for equality

Reminding us all that coming together often creates the greatest of experiences is the football World Cup 2014, taking place this very month in Brazil. And in the run-up to what's widely regarded as the world's greatest sporting tournament, a survey of football fans from across the globe has revealed widespread, majority support for any international players thinking about coming out as gay.

The survey was organised by gay charity Stonewall and Football Addicts (the Swedish developer of the app Forza Football). It asked fans if they would be comfortable were a player in their national team to come out as gay.

Sweden and Denmark scored the highest positive response to the question, with 79% of respondents saying that yes, they would indeed be comfortable with a gay international, while the United Kingdom scored a commendable 73%. There's still plenty of work to be done in the good ol' US of A when it comes to spreading the message of tolerance, though, with only 52% saying they'd be alright with an American international footballer coming out as gay.

Dark days of AIDS?

And on the subject of bigotry and intolerance, the spectre of HIV and AIDS has certainly played a part in generating plenty of homophobic feeling across the world during the last three decades - so it's more than a little concerning to hear news that, according to one of the world's leading authorities on infectious disease, a new HIV pandemic is 'a real possibility'. Professor Jeremy Farrar, director of leading research foundation the Welcome Trust, believes it's 'inevitable' that resistance to HIV medication will increase, because it's a virus which easily mutates. Speaking recently, the professor said: "A vaccine is crucial to ensure we don't have to rely on our current prevention and treatment options. But an HIV vaccine will be incredibly difficult."

With this in mind, we must hope that governments around the world not only hear but also act on the call from UNAIDS chief Michele Sidebe for an increased global effort to develop that much-needed vaccine.

What's Hot!

Gay Prom Queen

Gay Connecticut teenager Nasir Fleming was recently crowned Prom Queen - an event which prompted his fellow students to cheer loudly. Nasir said he wanted to be Prom Queen to support transgender equality, even though he's not transgender himself. Good on ya, Nasir.

Conchita Wurst wins Eurovision!

We were glued to the telly during this year's Eurovision Song Contest in Copenhagen.
There were some truly fabulous acts, including our very own Molly Smitten-Downes and, of course, the magnificent 'bearded lady' from Austria, Conchita Wurst.
I'm sure you joined us in whooping with delight when Conchita beat the odds and won the coveted title. You go, girl! Fingers crossed she's got an album or two in the pipeline for us to enjoy.

Would you like your wedding to be featured?

Now that we're finally allowed to tie the knot (hurray!), we're on the lookout for couples who'd like to feature in Midlands Zone magazine. Whether it's the planning leading up to the big day or the wedding itself, we'd love to hear from you! We do love a good wedding!

If you're interested in being featured in a future issue of Zone, get in touch with its Editor, Ryan, by emailing ryan@midlandszone.co.uk

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Rob Lambeth

Bar & Club DJ

at Helsinki & Dover Castle, Leicester and on Gorgeous Xtra Radio

Born: **Burton-on-Trent**
Star sign: **Sagittarius**
Age: **30**

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This month, our focus turns on Rob Lambeth, Bar & Club DJ in the East Midlands and radio presenter on Gorgeous Xtra.

About Rob

Where did you grow up?
In Tamworth, with my family.

Single or attached?
Very much single.

What makes you happy?
DJ-ing, attending events, chilling with friends, getting friend requests; I like to meet new people. It makes me happy doing my radio show on Gorgeous Xtra at the minute, too.

What makes you sad?
Having no food in the cupboard and negative people.

What makes you angry?
People who slag off other people. If you don't like someone, then don't associate with them. Slagging gets no one anywhere.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
I wouldn't really change anything about myself; I like who I am. If I could change something, though, I would probably have come out earlier in life. Or I'd change my age!

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?
To be honest, I'm very good at keeping myself out of embarrassing situations. But I think I'd have to go with the other week, when I was drunk. I thought I was Michael Buble - but judging by the video posted to my Facebook, I'm clearly not! I obviously had my beer ears on.

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?
Yes, if I met the right guy. I love weddings, and I have a wedding business too.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?
I knew at about 16, I'd say. But I was lacking in confidence and brought up to believe it was wrong, so I played the straight card for years. It kind of caught up with me when I wasn't expecting it.

When did you come out?
I came out to a friend at 24, after meeting someone.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?
I wasn't out at school. I was very quiet, lacking confidence and basically kept myself to myself. I had one or two girlfriends, but kept my feelings to myself, as I didn't really know how to deal with them. I was the subject of occasional teasing about being gay, but nothing major. I think the teasing made me keep it quiet for longer.

Who was the first person you told, and what was their reaction?
My friend Sam and my girlfriend at the time. I told her one night when I finally had the guts to admit it to myself. I felt I was then able to say it out loud to someone else. She attempted to be shocked, but it was obvious she wasn't.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?
I'd say, you are who you are and no one can change that. You need to take your time and be confident. Be able to admit it to yourself, and be happy with it, before you admit it to others. Be proud of the person you are and don't try to hide it or change it.

Have you ever had any experi ences with the opposite sex?
Yes. I played the straight card until I was 24. I had girlfriends and was genuinely interested in them. At that time, I'd never acted on the feelings I had for guys. Since then, I've not felt the urge to date women.

Your Career

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?
I was one of those kids who wanted to be something different every week. Army man, fireman, policeman, pilot. Whatever I was into at the time, I wanted to be it.

What was your first job?
I was a ride operator at Drayton Manor Park from 16 to18. Then I started working for a pub group and worked my way up to a management role.

You're a DJ at gay venues in Leicester. How did you first get into DJ-ing?
I used to do it as a hobby at home in my bedroom, getting shouted at by my dad to "turn it down" every five minutes. It wasn't until I decided to leave my bar management job that I started doing it more seriously and professionally. Part of the reason for leaving bar and nightclub management was to pursue it more seriously.

What was your first ever gig like?
It went extremely well, as I remember. I was scared to death and shook every time I picked up the mic. I had to really get my nerve to use it. Now it's second nature.

What's the most rewarding aspect of being a DJ?
I love entertaining people and seeing people get excited about a tune. I love building up an atmosphere. All DJs have their own specialist set that they focus on, but with me, if I do a cheesy night or a wedding, I'll still get excited and feel the same buzz. As long as people are enjoying the music, that's all that matters.

And the worst?
Not that it happens very often, but getting to a gig and equipment not working as it should. Or worse yet, forgetting something important. That's happened to me once in my career and it definitely taught me a lesson.

Which DJs do you look up to?
I like a variety, but I think DJs like Martin Garrix and Nick Hannam have done so much at such a young age. But then DJs such as Frankie Knuckles have really made their mark on the music scene.

If you had one venue in the world in which you could DJ, which would it be?
I would love a stint in Amnesia in Ibiza or BCM in Magaluf, if I ever got the chance. I just think they would be amazing places to be.

Where would you like to see yourself in five years' time?
I would hopefully like to be DJ-ing around Birmingham more - and also around Manchester and Leeds, with a few stints abroad.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene and what's your earliest memory?
I've been on the Birmingham scene since I was 22. My earliest memory would be of us finishing work in Tamworth and then all jumping in a taxi and rushing to DV8 for a Skint Thursday night. I used to love the back room - £10 all in, and keep your plastic cup!

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

I have to say my favourite cabaret act would be Miss Penny. Although there are others I enjoy, Penny never fails either to shock me or make me laugh.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

This is a tough one. I may have to go with James Cockrill, as he's been very good to me since I started DJ-ing on the scene. But I do have lots of people to thank for helping me achieve what I've achieved so far: Simon Baker, Richard Moon, Robbie Lewis, Ricki Wellmen.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

I love the sense of community; the way people come together for events such as Pride.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?

People don't seem to go out as much, or use venues like they used to. I do think a lot of it is down to the development of technology. Years ago, being gay wasn't as accepted as it is today. When I was at school, you needed things like Gaydar to be able to talk to other guys, and you needed the scene to meet them safely. Nowadays, smartphones and Facebook mean you don't have to leave the house to meet guys. It can all be done from home. This is where gay bars and clubs take the hit. It's a shame that the social aspect of it has gone.

How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?

I would encourage people to use it more, and that includes Birmingham, Leicester and Nottingham. There are a lot of gay people out there who won't use it, won't go to events like Pride etc. I think people need to use it more, to support the bars and clubs that have given generations before us somewhere to go and be themselves.

Time Out

Where do you go on a night out?

Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham gay scenes.

What do you do to relax?

Movies and dinner out. I love chilling at home with mates, and going out partying when I get the time.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I'm a massive Family Guy and American Dad fan. I don't really do telly. I don't find there's much on. I'd rather find a good movie.

What was the last album or track you bought?

Elle Goulding's new album, I think.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

Loud, boozy, fun and hectic. Party with a hint of relaxation.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

Probably soundcloud. Or ASOS. Gotta love dem shoes.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Alan Rickman.

What's your favourite book?

Facebook.

Half-empty or half-full?

Half-full.

What's your favourite food?

Pizza, pizza, pizza.

And how about your favourite drink?

Vodka & Coke or Kopparberg.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Lady Gaga just pips it.

Gaydar or Grindr?

Neither, although I've met some awesome people through Grindr.

If you could take a selfie with one person alive or dead, who would it be?

I'd have loved to have taken a selfie with Frankie Knuckles.

Editor-in-Chief
Martin Monahan
martin.monahan@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281777

Managing Director:
Paul Oliver
paul.oliver@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281711

Editor
Ryan Humphreys
ryan@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281722

Sales & Marketing:
Jon Cartwright
j.cartwright@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281703
Chris Horton
chris.horton@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281704

Admin/Subscriptions:
Adrian Parker
adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk
01743 281714

Graphic Designers:
Lisa Wassell
Chris Atherton
Adrian Parker

Accounts Administrator
Julia Perry
julia@21stcd.com
01743 281717

Website Development:
Jim Pallett

Contributors:
Gudrun Limbrick
Steve Ball
Graham Bostock

Head Office:
13-14 Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire. SY2 6AE

Tel: 01743 281777
Fax: 01743 281744
Info@midlandszone.co.uk

What's On
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PRIDE Tens of thousands party at Birmingham Gay Pride festival despite torrential rain!

Tens of thousands of people turned out for Birmingham Pride's 'Equality And Freedom Around The World-themed Carnival Parade' and accompanying festival over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.

Despite torrential rain at points during the festival, spirits were high throughout the event, with festival-attendees generating their very own brand of 'Pride sunshine'.

Festivities began Saturday lunchtime with the Carnival Parade, which saw hundreds of people marching through the streets of the city and thousands more looking on.

The atmosphere at the two-day festival, one of the largest in the UK, was electric, with headline performances from big-name artists such as Katy B, Conor Maynard, Gabrielle, Ms Dynamite and Foxes generating huge crowds in the festival's Main Stage arena.

Another big highlight of the festival was the Dance Arena, which featured special DJ sets from Artful Dodger and Take That's Howard Donald.

Lawrence Barton, Festival Director, commented: "Despite the damp start to the weekend, we've received so much positive feedback from revellers at Pride across social media such as Facebook and Twitter. The praise truly is an accolade to all the hard work put in by the organising team, the volunteers and Pride Ambassadors over the weekend.

"We owe big thanks to both West Midlands Police and the security teams deployed, who worked together to ensure it was such a safe and happy Pride for everyone to enjoy.

"We're all immensely proud of everyone who took part, and we're already looking forward to Pride 2015."

Head over to Midlands Zone's Facebook page to see pictures from the two-day gay festival.

Next year's Birmingham Pride is being held on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 May 2015.

PRIDE Dates announced for 2014's Midlands Pride events

With Birmingham Pride over for another year, dates for two other Pride festivals in the Midlands have been announced.

Organisers of Nottinghamshire Pride have now confirmed that the festival will go ahead on Saturday 26 July.

Across the Midlands in Wolverhampton, the LGBT Network has announced that the city's Pride festival, this year re-named Wolves Pride, will take place on Saturday 27 September.

POLITICS UKIP suspends Redditch councillor who called gays 'poofs', 'dykes' and 'perverts'

A Redditch councillor who previously referred to gay people as "poofs", "dykes" and "perverts" has been suspended by UKIP.

Only days after being elected to Redditch Borough Council's Church Hill ward, Dave Small found himself facing a disciplinary hearing.

His suspension followed numerous comments and remarks of a homophobic nature. Last year, Mr Small wrote on Facebook: "Why on earth is this useless Government pandering to puffs? I refuse to call them gays, as what has gay to do with perverts like Elton John and Clair Balding [sic] who get their jollies in such disgusting ways. To sum up, they should not be allowed to be married, they should go back to the closet."

PinkNews.co.uk reports: 'He also referred to gay people as "perverts" last February, and said that "poofs and dykes" should not be allowed to marry. In other posts, he proclaimed "fuck the poofters", defended his use of the racial slur "p**i", and predicted the UK would be overwhelmed with "thousands more scroungers" from Mali.'

Commenting on the suspension, Redditch Borough Council said that it didn't feel it was a matter for the authority, as the alleged comments were believed to have been made before Mr Smith became a councillor.

ACTIVISM 'Pride is a PROTEST! Pride NOT Profit' meeting set by new Birmingham group

This month will see the launch of a new activist group for Birmingham's LGBTQ community.

The groups, which use the slogan 'Pride is a Protest! Pride not Profit!', have announced that a meeting will be held at Birmingham's LGBT Centre on Friday 20 June at 5pm.

The group are appealing for members of the community who they describe as "tired of a stale, over-priced and commercialised LGBT scene in the city."

They're also targeting people who want to take action to achieve change within the community. The group's founders were encouraging people attending last month's Birmingham Pride festival to join them by handing out flyers (inset).

The new activist group welcomes everybody, stating that everbody will be listened to and will be run without hierarchies.

For more information, visit the group on Facebook by searching for 'LGBTQ Birmingham Activist Group' or emailing bhamlgbtq@hotmail.com

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MUSIC Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra Pride Proms 2014 hailed a huge success

Audience members last month braved the rain to enjoy the Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra's (BGSO) Pride Proms concert at Adrian Boult Hall.

Part of the Birmingham-wide celebrations of LGBT culture, the Pride Proms brought together a full Symphony orchestra and choir from the Midlands LGBT community to play and sing a celebratory programme that included tunes from West Side Story and Bizet's Carmen, as well as popular classics such as the Hallelujah Chorus and Land Of Hope And Glory. The concert was in aid of Stonewall's campaign for the rights of LGBT people around the world.

Conductor **Jack Lovell** said: "BGSO and the Pride Proms Chorus - made up of Vivat!, the West Midlands Police Choir, Rainbow Voices and Leicester Rainbow Voices - really did a fantastic job. I'm so incredibly proud to conduct an orchestra where everyone is so open and enjoys making music so much!"

BGSO Chairperson **Andrew Jinks** said: "We love playing music, and to be part of the UK's biggest two-day LGBT festival is a real honour. We've raised loads of money for Stonewall - we're still counting it! - and we will continue to speak out for our brothers and sisters around the globe who would've been imprisoned for even coming to a concert like ours."

BGSO is currently recruiting more members. If you or someone you know would like to join, email info@bgso.org.uk or visit bgso.org.uk

FILM Film Festival announces Audience Award winner

Organisers of the second SHOUT Film Festival have announced that their closing film, Reaching For The Moon, has won the Audience Award, sponsored by Midlands Zone magazine.

The movie dramatised the 1950s and '60s love story of renowned American poet Elizabeth Bishop and Brazilian architect Lota de Macedo Soares.

The festival's organisers have commented on the success of the festival: "We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who attended the second SHOUT Film Festival. We brought you the best in contemporary Queer Cinema from around the world, and were thrilled with the feedback we received."

POLITICS Birmingham Pride co-founder takes Sandwell seat

Birmingham Pride co-founder Bill Gavan has taken a seat for Labour in Sandwell.

Bill Gavan

Gavan, who helped to start Birmingham Pride back in 1997 and is the former owner of popular nightclub Subway City, took the Langley Ward seat for the Labour party with 1,876 votes. The Conservative party's Charlotte Rose Wicketts received 660 votes.

Meanwhile, there was a shock defeat for openly gay Labour Councillor Steve Bedser, the Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing at Birmingham City Council, who lost out in the Kings Norton ward of Birmingham to the Conservative party's Simon Jevon.

In a close contest, Jevon took the seat with 1,837 votes, with Bedser receiving 1,722 votes.

FAMILY Sharp rise in gay couples adopting in Notts

Nottingham County Council says same-sex couples are giving fresh hope to children in care following a sharp rise in adoptions.

The Nottinghamshire Post reports: 'Figures show that 12 per cent of children placed for adoption in 2013-14 found homes in same-sex households. That places the county ahead of the national average. Ministry of Justice figures reveal that one in 15 children now find permanent homes with gay and lesbian parents.

'While there was an 18% increase in the number of adoption orders granted by the courts nationally last year compared with 2012-13, Nottinghamshire saw a rise of 130%, to 92.

'A total of 101 people and couples were approved to adopt or start fostering children in care in Notts in 2012-13, out of 753 inquiries. It meant 13% of inquiries were approved.'

NATIONAL NEWS

PRIDE Brighton Pride set to charge for its street party

Brighton Pride is planning to charge for its street party for the first time, to stop a 'rough' free-for-all with out-of-control drinking.

Gay Star News reports: 'The change has been forced on organisers of the LGBT festival, which is a highlight of the British summer.

'And if the community doesn't agree to the new plan, the whole festival could be shut down for safety reasons.

'Brighton Pride already charges for entry to its park festival, this year on 2 August, although it's free to watch the parade wind through the streets of the seaside city. But alongside this, a free party had grown up, with drinkers spilling into St James's Street - Brighton's gay district.'

HEALTH HIV drug-resistant pandemic 'a real possibility'

A new HIV pandemic is "a real possibility", one of the world's leading authorities on infectious disease has said, warning that a rise of drug-resistant strains of the virus could "reverse progress made since the 1980s" in combating the disease.

The Independent reports: 'Professor Jeremy Farrar said that "the spectre of drug-resistant HIV" threatened to have "a huge impact" in the next 20 years, if drugs which have made vast improvements to the life expectancy of patients since the 1990s become less effective.'

SPORT Football fans would support gay players coming out

A survey of football fans from around the world has revealed widespread support for any international players thinking about coming out as gay.

The Guardian reports: 'The results reveal that Sweden and Denmark - where 79% of respondents said they would be comfortable with a gay international - are the most supportive, closely followed by the United Kingdom - 73%. 'While the figures from Portugal and Italy - 69% and 68% respectively - can be interpreted as encouraging, attitudes appear a little more reactionary in Germany - 53% - and the United States - 52%.'

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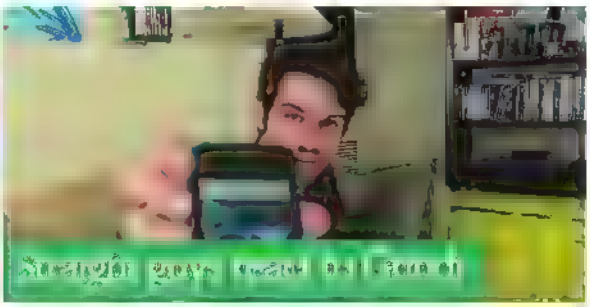
IT'S GONE VIRAL!

What we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

Ones to watch - the best **videos** on the net...

If you missed the Birmingham Pride Carnival Parade (or you just want to relive the whole thing again, this time in the dry!), then take a look at the official video over on YouTube. It's a high-spirited and colourful masterpiece! youtu.be/C3ezCLfHrYw



The world seemed short of one thing - yes, a video of straight guys reacting to their first look at Grindr. The video gets great once the straight guys start receiving messages from the 'hung jocks' and 'BBCs' of the online community. youtu.be/2egVfvcvWvo

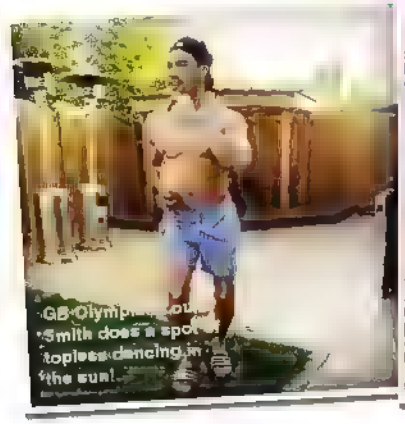
We're All Human song sends a strong message

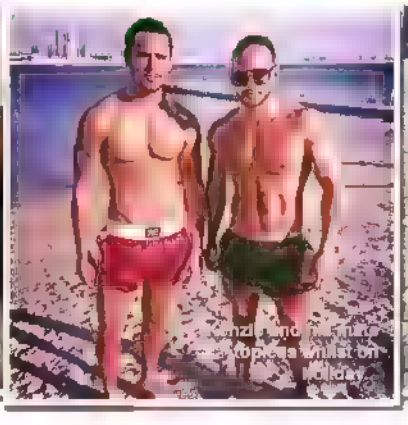
The L Project song raises money for charity

The L Project, the fabulous group of musicians who brought us 2011's It Does Get Better, are back with their latest track, We're All Human.

The song, which supports Russian LGBT Network Kaleidoscope Trust and youth transgender charity Mermaids, warms our hearts and ears. The track is available on iTunes and Amazon (or wherever you digitally buy your music from) and it's dead cheap too! So go on, dig deep, listen to a great song and support some fantastic charities all at once! Visit the L Project website for more: bit.ly/1pI2Crc

Our favourite **Instagram** snaps...





Heather Peace

Exclusive interview with lesbian singer, songwriter and Waterloo Road actor

Having just left our TV screens from major roles in hit lesbian BBC Three drama Lip Service and BBC One's Waterloo Road, Heather Peace is back with her second album, The Thing Line, and brand new single, We Can Change. Midlands Zone talks to Heather Peace about all things music, telly and sexuality...

Where did you get your passion for music from?

I just don't remember a time that music wasn't in my life. There's no specific memory, it's just in-built, and I couldn't not be writing and playing. I have very early memories of crying at Rod Stewart's song, I Am Sailing. It wasn't the words. I just remember the melody made my heart ache. I was probably three-years-old.

You're also an actress, starring in hit TV shows such as London's Burning, Lip Service and, most recently, Waterloo Road. Was acting something you'd always wanted to do?

Again, there was never really any conscious decision. I just always did it. I went to a council-run drama club in Bradford. I played piano and I sang. I was given my piano by a friend of my mum's who noticed I was trying to play it when I was really little. Then a lady from our church taught me for free. I was very lucky. I was never pushed by my parents, I just loved my hobbies and my parents supported me and took me everywhere. The next natural step was to apply for drama school. So I did and I got in. I was a pretty dedicated youngster, when I think about it now, and I feel very lucky that my hobbies became my actual job.

Speaking about Lip Service, it was hailed as the most realistic portrayal of lesbian life on television. Were you disappointed that it was cancelled?

Yes, we all were. There'd been no word after the second series went out, so I wasn't surprised. That's the breaks! I did feel that the audience were cheated, though, as there was no definitive end and that's not fair. I'm sure Harriet Braun the writer, would've tied up all the loose ends had she known that that was going to be the end.

With the show's cancellation a couple of years back, do you think there's now even more of a need for gay women to be represented on television?

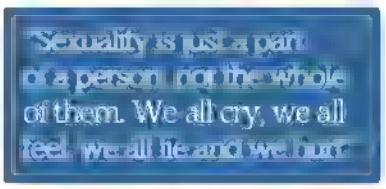
There's absolutely a need for gay women to be represented on television - we're still under-represented. I've been pleased recently that there are more lesbian characters springing up in mainstream dramas and soap operas, and I think that actually has far more impact for the next generation of LGBT kids. The question is, do I think that a TV series based around gay characters and gay life is an interesting story? And I say yes. Make it!

Is there a dream role or show you'd like to add to your acting CV?

I always wanted to play Hedda Gabler on stage. To be good enough to do it. It's an incredible play by Henrik Ibsen about a woman trapped by her time and class. She's in high society and she's bored. As a result, she manipulates the people around her, creating dramas between them to keep her fiercely bright mind active. I saw Geraldine James play her once at the Royal Exchange in Manchester and she was incredible. At the other end of the spectrum, the first female Dr Who. I'd be up for that.

You left your role in Waterloo Road to concentrate on writing your new album, The Thin Line. Was that a difficult decision to make, or was it something you'd always planned on doing?

It became untenable to do both. I always think, if you don't know what to do, do nothing and the answer will become obvious. It became obvious. My writing wasn't getting enough time for the second album. The material I was producing in the limited time I had when I wasn't filming just wasn't good enough. It needed all of my focus, and it wasn't getting it. It was a hard decision, but I know it was the right decision, as I wrote my best material after leaving. On the flip side, I couldn't have done the music without Waterloo Road. The show supported me and made it possible for me and the team to put the music funds into production and promotion of this next album. I'm so thankful to Waterloo Road for that.



When writing new music, where do you get your inspiration from?

I just take inspiration when it comes. I think a lot. Thematically, this second album is less self-indulgent than my first. There are songs about the world as a whole. We Can Change and The Thin Line. Lily is about domestic abuse, and No Mercy is about sex. In My Arms and I Pick Flowers are specifically for my wife, and House For Your Broken Heart was written for my best friend. I don't like focusing too much on my inspiration for songwriting, as it should be about the listener and what they want to take from melodies or lyrics.

You say that one of the tracks on the album, We Can Change, is your 'big gay anthem' What's the song all about, and why did you want to write it?

It's a song that says "Let's look at what's the same in all of us, not just point out the differences". Sexuality is just a part of a person not the whole of them. We all cry, we all feel, we all lie and we hurt. It's not that I wanted to write it, I just did. That's what came out!

The Thin Line has tracks about dealing with friendships, sex, sexuality, relationships and the trials of social media. When you write your songs, do they relate to your own personal experiences?

Sometimes, sometimes not. Fairytales was definitely much more a diary of my own thoughts and of things that were happening to me. The Thin Line is definitely more outward-looking.

What's your favourite track on the new album, and which ones would you recommend we look out for?

We Can Change is the first single, and I'm really proud of that one, it'll go down brilliantly at gigs. It's got a serious message but it's big and fun and vibey. It's been getting some good play on BBC Radio Two already. I Pick Flowers is a personal favourite, because it's so honest and it's raw. It was recorded in one take, with a microphone hanging from the ceiling in the studio to pick up both mine and Michael's guitars and my vocal. It was 1am and we were shattered. I think you can hear the vulnerability of that. When you're tired you lose your inhibitions, so the words came from a really honest place. Oh, and look out for No Mercy, my filthy dance track. It's good fun.

You've built up a loyal and passionate fanbase over the years and had three sell-out tours with your full band, as well as four sell-out acoustic tours. Did you ever imagine you and your music would be so popular?

No. I feel completely blessed. I'm a lucky old thing, and I never take my fanbase for granted.

Do you enjoy performing at events such as Manchester Pride and Sydney Mardi Gras? Are you ever surprised by the reaction you receive?

Of course. Everyone's there to have a party so it's very easy to put on a good gig. The audience is already set to have a good time, so are right there with you. I'm doing a lot of Prides this year - Glasgow, York, Brighton. I'm really excited about them - the audiences are always just amazing.

You're heading back out on tour with your full band in October. Are you looking forward to it?

Very much so. The full band on the road is bonkers and exhausting but brilliant fun. It's high-energy stuff, having everyone there. Those gigs will be awesome!

Aside from the tour, what else have you got planned for 2014?

I'm appearing at festivals over the summer. Maybe a follow up-single. That's enough to be getting on with. I'm always writing too. We'll just see what happens.

Will we see you returning to acting at some point?

Absolutely. It's just more likely to be shorter dramas. After appearing in ITVs Prey, as John Simm's wife. I got a taste for real, gritty drama. The director, Nick Murphy, was so gifted, and I felt really challenged. I'd like more!

Just for a bit of fun, if you could take a selfie with one person alive or dead, who would it be?

Doris Day. Now. On her ranch. With her cats.

Heather Peace's new album, **The Thin Line**, and its first single, **We Can Change**, are both released on Monday 9 June. Go to **www.heatherpeace.com** for more info and full tour updates.

Hundreds raised at second annual **Walsall Pride Ball**

Last month saw the eagerly anticipated return of Walsall's very own Pride Ball. The second annual event was held at the town's Arbor Lights restaurant.

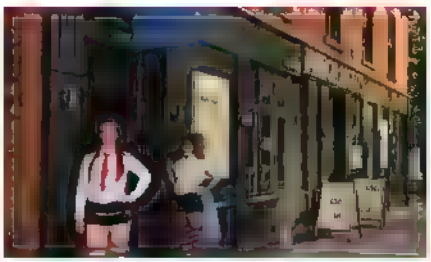
The Ball saw over one hundred people turn up to celebrate gay life in the town and raise much-needed funds for Walsall Pride later this year

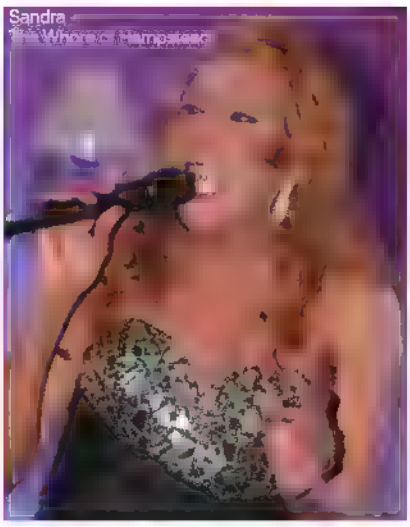
The event was attended by people from across the Midlands and featured a three-course meal and plenty of entertainment

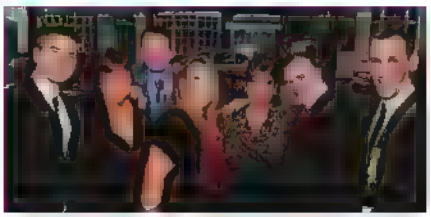
Hundreds of pounds were raised via ticket sales and a raffle, which offered some top-notch prizes (including an art collection!)

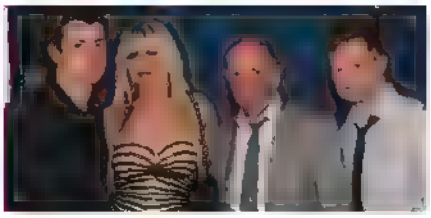
Cabaret on the evening came from the wonderful Sandra, Scotland's Mary Mac Glamour and Samantha Rouge, along with dancers Jo and Jonathan

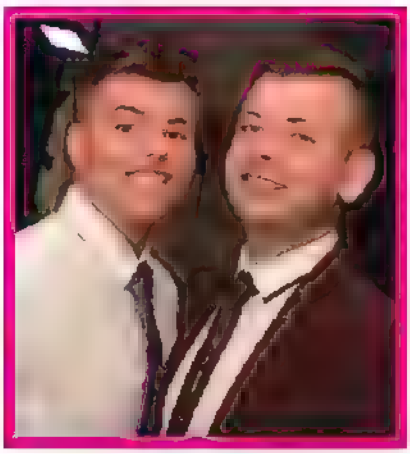
Walsall Pride takes place on Saturday 23 August in the town's Gallery Square We'll be seeing you there

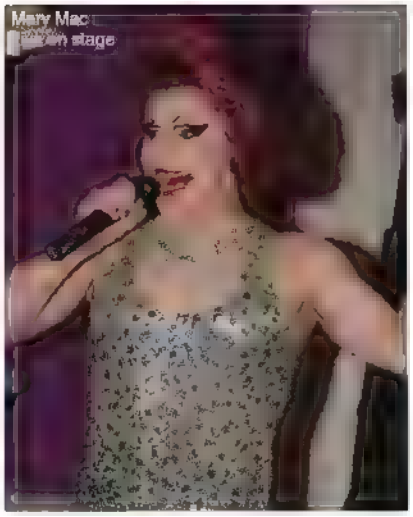


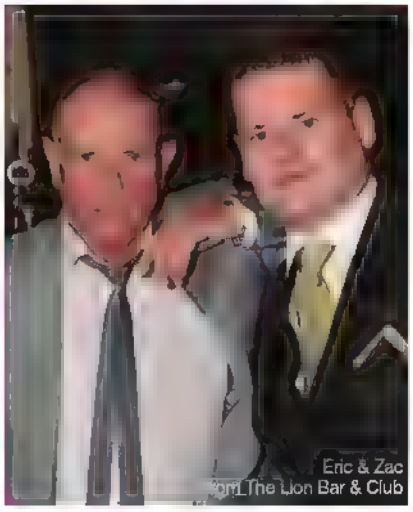









Mary Mac
on stage


Eric & Zac
from The Lion Bar & Club

Charlotte the Harlotte (right)
and Samantha Rouge

PRIDE
BRIGHTON + HOVE
Freedom to Live
BRIGHTON-PRIDE.ORG

The 24th Annual Brighton & Hove Pride Festival 2014
Celebrating the Freedom to Live

PRIDE ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
18th July - 3rd August

Voted BEST OUTDOOR EVENT/PRIDE FESTIVAL
Boyz magazine

Sunday 20th July 2014
WOOF! PRIDE
Hove Rugby Club, 12noon-5pm
WOOF! Last year Doggy Pride was the most successful ever. 2014 has Novelty classes, pedigree classes, doggy fun and games - in association with Coastway Veterinary Group and the Dogs Trust. For market stalls, traders or to enter your pooch this year, go to *Brighton-Pride.org*

Sunday 27th July 2014
PRIDE RAINBOW RUN, SPORTS DAY & PICNIC
Preston Park, 10AM (from 10.30 run)
5K Rainbow Run followed by Drag Race/Bears tug of war and much more. Come and join in the community fun day - open to all. For more details and to register go to *Brighton-Pride.org*.

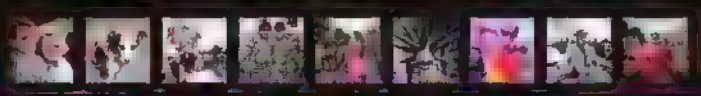
PRIDE ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL 2014
18th July-3rd August 2014
Two weeks of events celebrating *Freedom to Live* LGBT Arts, Film and Spoken Word.
To register an event please go to *Brighton-Pride.org*

Saturday 2nd August 2014
LGBT COMMUNITY PARADE
Madeira Drive 11am
"The World's A Disco" celebrates music, dance and colour from around the globe, whilst highlighting the plight of communities where the parties yet to start and they still don't have their basic *Freedom to live !*
To register go to *Brighton-Pride.org*

Saturday 2nd August 2014
PRIDE FESTIVAL
Preston Park 12noon-10pm
Pride is back, Bigger and brasher with extended opening times.
8 entertainment areas/ Main stage/ Dance tents /Funfair / Market/ Community area.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
Prices frozen until Easter
SOLD OUT
£15 ADVANCE (first release) available during May.
Then £17.50/£20
More on the day.

Brighton-Pride.org



CHARITY PARTNERS
RAINBOW FUND

GAYSTARNEWS
GT DIVA

2014 UK LGBT EVENTS

Annual LGBT Pride events in the UK mean two things. One, there's a celebration of all things LGBT

Here s our extens ve list of UK Pride events - from Cornwall in the South to Glasgow in the North Wh chever you choose to attend we hope you have an awesome time!

June

Oxford Gay Pride
Sat 7 June
Oxford
oxford-pride.org.uk

Gloucester Pride
Sat 14 June
Gloucester Park
glospride.org.uk

Cumbria Pride
Sat 14 June
Carlisle Centre
cumbriapride.org

Blackpool Gay Pride
Sat 14 & Sun 15 June
Winter Gardens, Blackpool
blackpoolpridefest.com

York Pride
Sat 21 June
Knavesmire (Tadcaster Road End)
yorkpride.org.uk

Pride Scotia
Sat 21 June
York Racecourse, York
pride-scotia.org

Suffolk Pride
Sat 21 June
Waterfront, Ipswich
suffolkpride.co.uk

Pride In London
Sat 28 June
Trafalgar Square, London
prideinlondon.org

Sheffield Gay Pride
Sat 28 June
Devonshire Green
sheffieldpride.co.uk

Swansea Pride
Sat 28 June
Lacrosse Field, Singleton Park
swanseapride.com

Warwickshire Pride
Sat 28 June
Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa
warwickshirepride.co.uk

July

Essex Pride
Sat 5 July
Central Park, Chelmsford
essexpride.org

Bristol Pride
Sat 12 July
College Green, Bristol
pridebristol.co.uk

Bourne Free Pride
Sat 12 July
Triangle Arena, Bournemouth
bournefree.co.uk

Sparkle In The Park
Sat 12 & Sun 13 July
Sackville Gardens
sparkle.org.uk

Newcastle Pride
Fri 18 July
Town Moor & Times Square
northern-pride.com

L Fest
Fri 18 - Mon 21 July
Uttoxeter Race Course, Staffs
lfest.co.uk

Glasgow Pride
Sat 19 July
King Street Car Park
prideglasgow.co.uk

Brighton Doggy Pride
Sun 20 July
Hove Recreation Ground
brighton-pride.org

Nottinghamshire Pride
Sat 26 July
Hove Recreation Gound
nottinghamshirepride.co.uk

August

Brighton Pride
Sat 1- 3 August
Preston Park
brighton-pride.org

Shrewsbury Pink Picnic
Sat 2 August
Quarry Park, Shrewsbury
lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

Liverpool Pride
Sat 2 August
Pier Head, Liverpool
liverpoolpride.co.uk

Leeds Pride
Sun 3 August
Lower Briggate, Leeds
leedspride.com

Gay Family Pride
8 - 11 August
Barnswood Scout Camp, Staffordshire
gayfamilyweb.co.uk

Stoke Pride
Sat 9 August
Northwood Park
stokepride.org.uk

Swindon and Wiltshire Pride
Sat 9 August
Town Gardens, Quarry Rd, Swindon
swindonwiltshirepride.co.uk

Wakefield Pride
Sun 10 August
Warren Gate, Wakefield
wakefieldpride.org

Doncaster Pride
Sat 16 August
Civic Square, Waterdale
doncasterpride.co.uk

Cardiff Mardigras
Sat 16 August
Coopers field, Cardiff
cardiffmardigras.co.uk

Weston-Super-Mare Pride
Sat 16August
Grove Park

Manchester Pride
Sat 23 August
Manchester
manchesterpride.com

Walsall Pride
Sat 23 August
Gallery Square
walsallpride.org

Cornwall Pride
Sat 23 August
Truro Lemon Quay
cornwallpride.com

Reading Pride
Sat 30 August
King Meadow Park, Reading
readingpride.co.uk

Leicester Pride
Sat 30 August
Victoria Park, Leicester
leicesterpride.com

September

Derby Pride
Sat 13 September
Bass Recreation Ground, Derby
derbyshirepride.co.uk

Sunderland Pride
Sun 28 September
Civic Centre
sunderlandpride.co.uk

Wolves Pride
Sat 27 September
Venue: Wolverhampton (tbc)
LGBTWolverhampton.org.uk

October

Chester Pride
Sat 4 October
Grosvenor Park
chesterpride.co.uk

Rainbow Film Festival
Fri 17 - Sun 19 October
Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury
rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk

November

Shout Festival
Thurs 13 - 16 Sun November
Various venues around Birmingham
www.shoutfestival.co.uk

ZONE
WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY PRIDE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE PRIDE SO FABULOUS!

birmingham pride 2014

NOW HERE'S TO NEXT YEAR...
SAT 23 & SUN 24 MAY 2015!

Get involved and take part in Pride 2015 - contact us now:
Email: info@birminghampride.com www.birminghampride.com

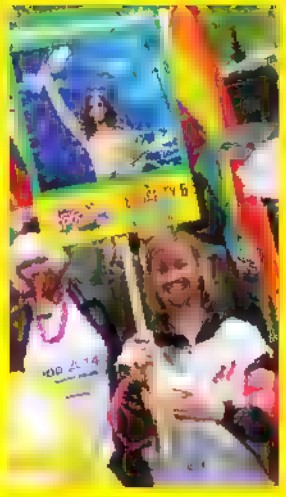
PICTURE SPECIAL

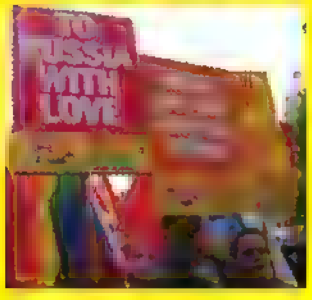
birmingham pride 2018

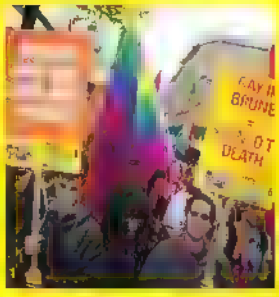
equality & f[illegible]
around the world

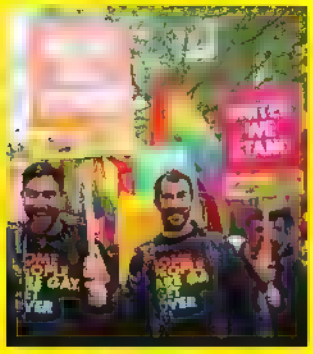
OVER 300 PHOTOS!

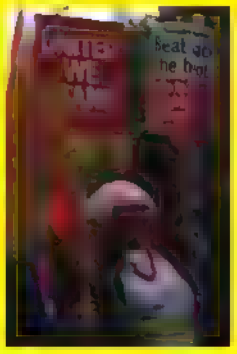
THE EQUALITY & FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD PARADE











pride 2012

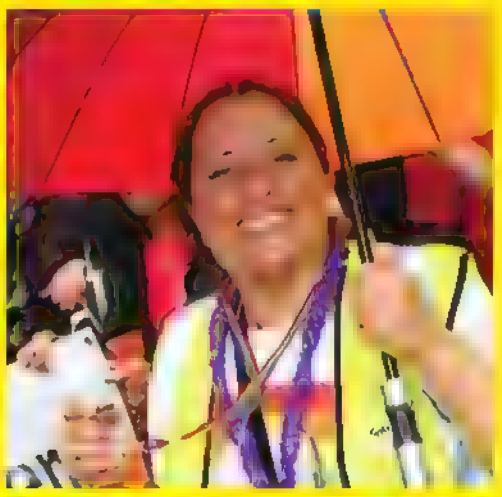
16 PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL

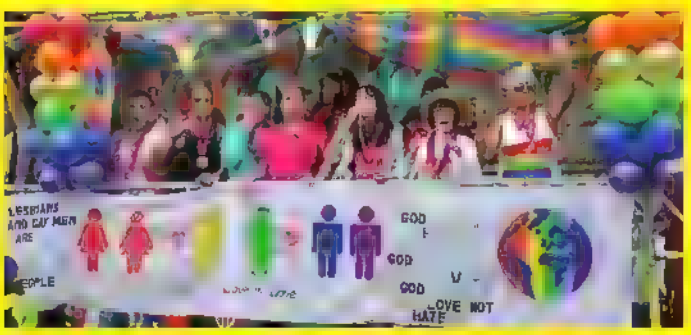
Despite the rain the Carnival Parade kicked Birmingham Pride off to a fab start supporting the message of Equality and Freedom Around the World! Spirits were high and the parade colourful and with it we made our own sunshine

THE EQUALITY & FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD PARADE

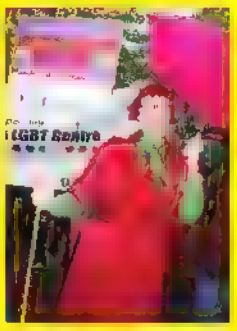
pride 2012

16 PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL





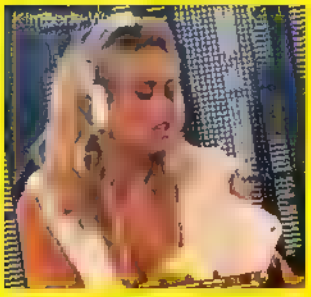
THE EQUALITY & FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD PARADE

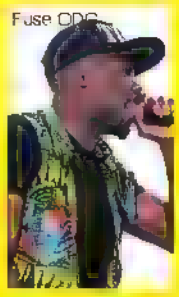


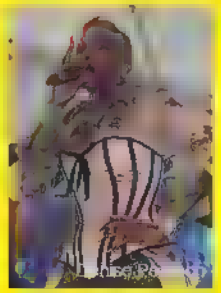
16 PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL

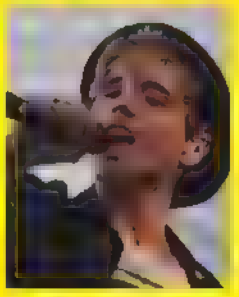
THE MAIN STAGE

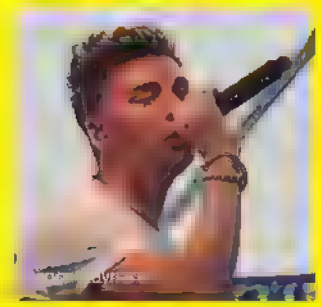
Thousands of you headed to the Main Stage over the Pride weekend to see top acts such as Katy B Gabrielle Ms Dynamite Foxes and Conor Maynard Weren't they great?





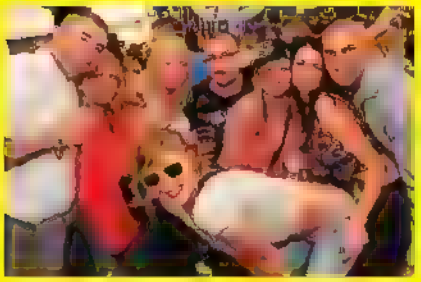


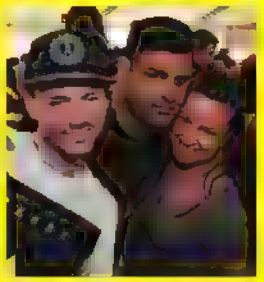


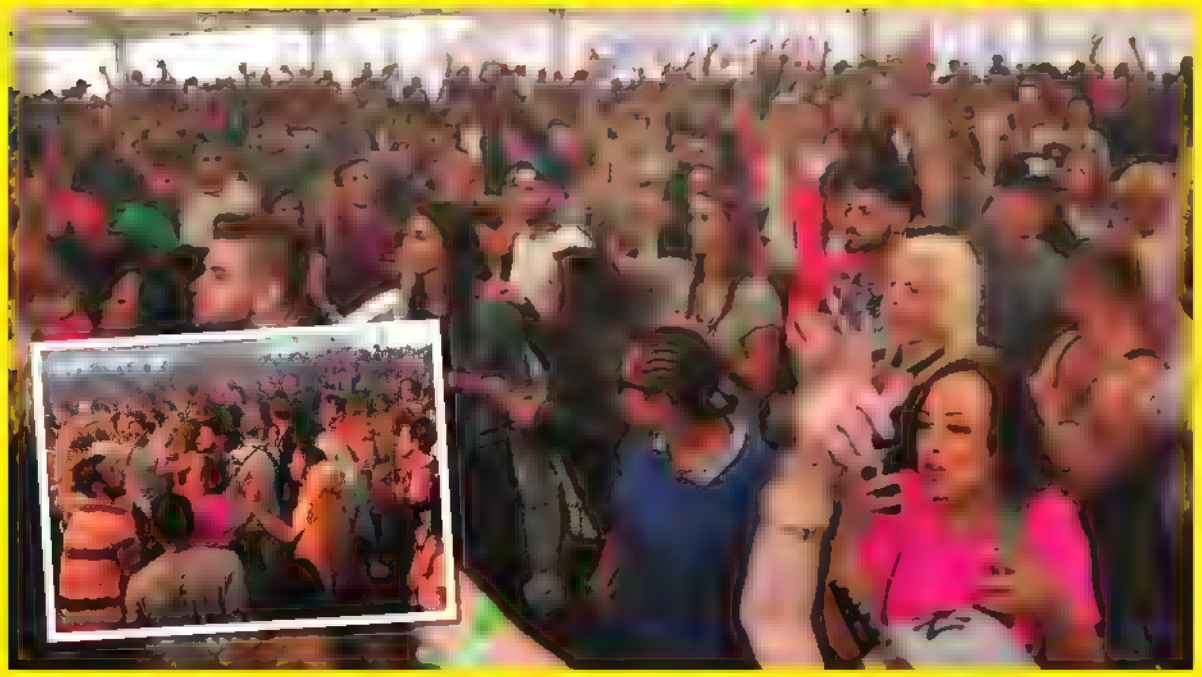


THE DANCE ARENA

Revellers in the Dance Arena were in for a treat this year with headline DJ sets from Artful Dodger and Take That's Howard Donald! You rocked it on the dance floor too

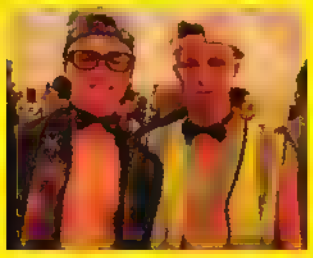


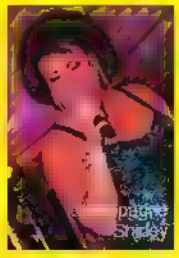


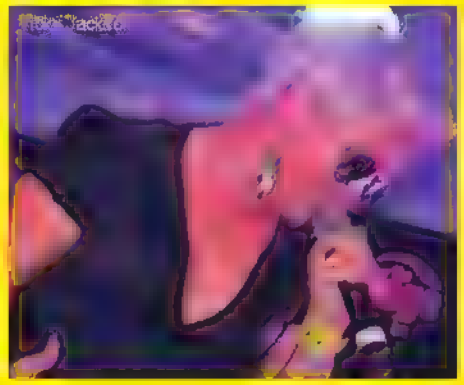


CABARET MARQUEE

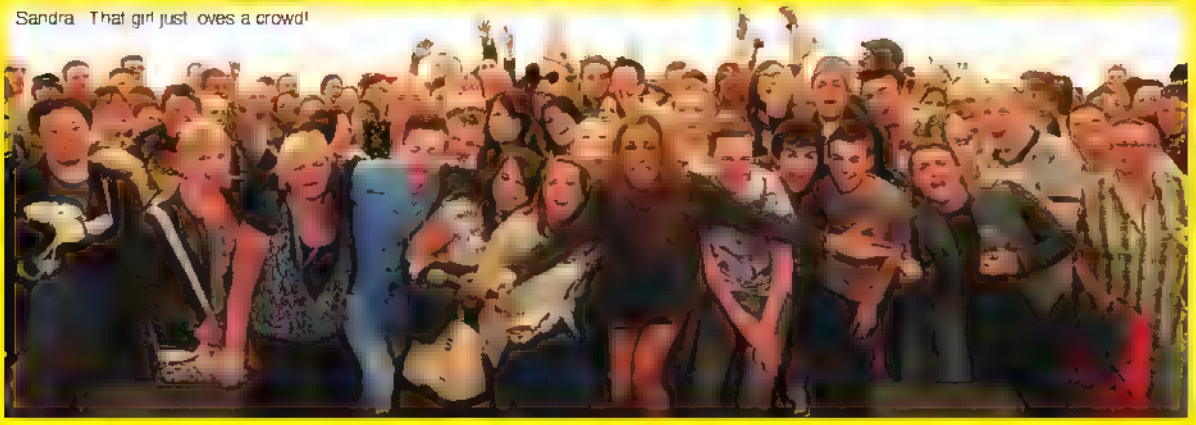
One of the high ghts of Birm ngham Pride was definitely the Cabaret Marq jee feat ring over 25 acts across the weekend We oved it and so did you







Sandra That girl just oves a crowd!



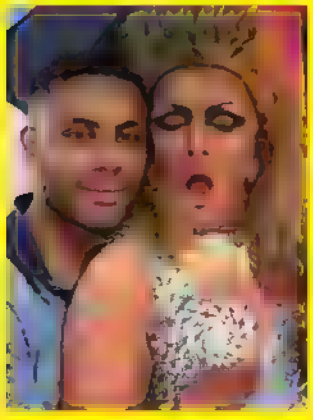
pride 2012

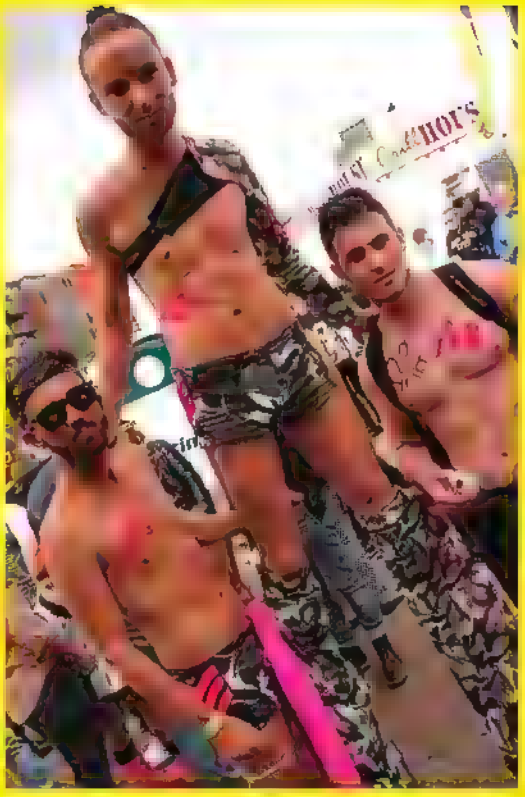
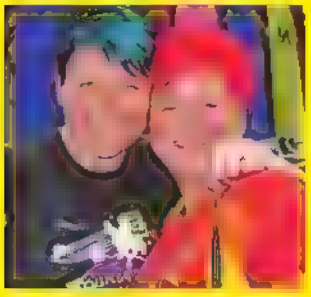
WOMEN'S ARENA

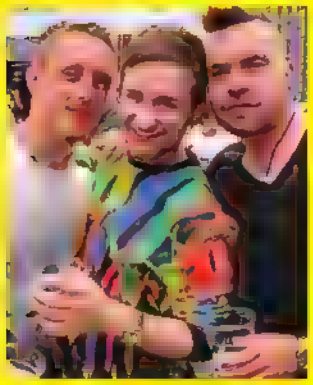
For the ladies that attended Birmingham Pride, many of you took delight in the entertainment provided at the Women's Arena. A great atmosphere with some great musicians

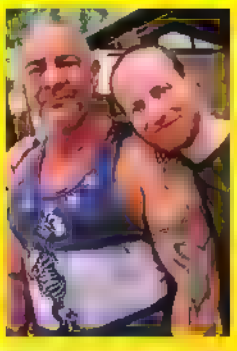
Claire Humphries

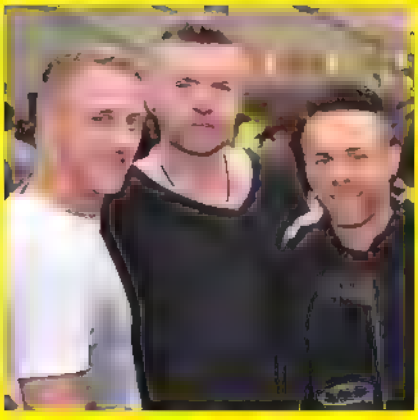
AROUND THE GAY VILLAGE







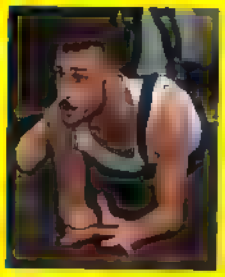


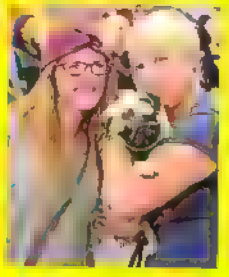
pride 2016

16 PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL

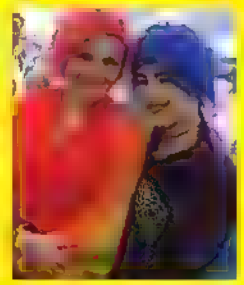
Whilst there was plenty to see and do in and around the entertainment arenas of Birmingham Pride the atmosphere was electric throughout Birmingham's vibrant gay village. You know how to have a good time, that's for sure

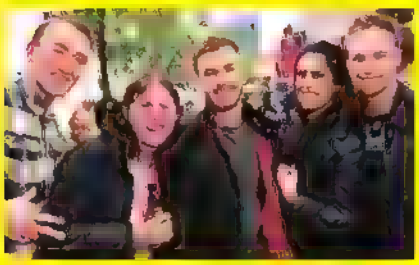
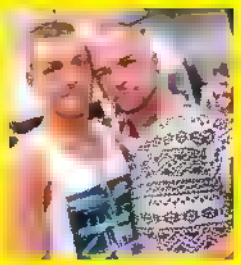
COMMUNITY VILLAGE GREEN

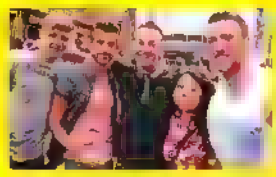
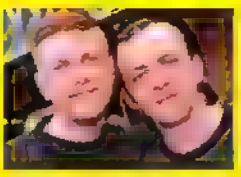


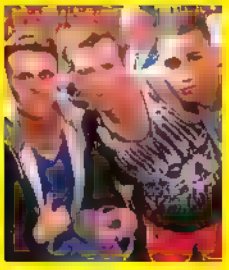


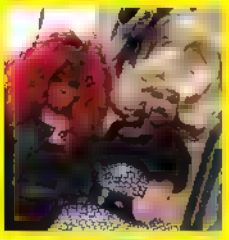
AROUND THE GAY VILLAGE

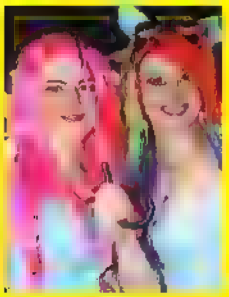






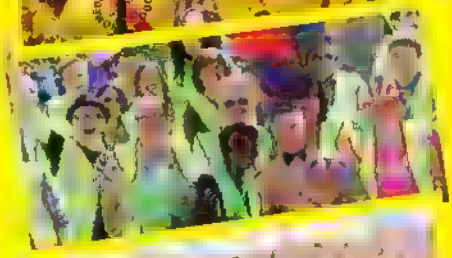


MIDLANDS ZONE

COMMENT

THE HIGHS & LOWS OF PRIDE

THE HIGHS...



1 FABULOUS EQUALITY PARADE

It may not have been the biggest and best parade and despite the wet weather the spirit, love, passion and of Birmingham's (and beyond) LGBT community showed Birmingham just how out and proud we were standing united as one even in torrential rain!

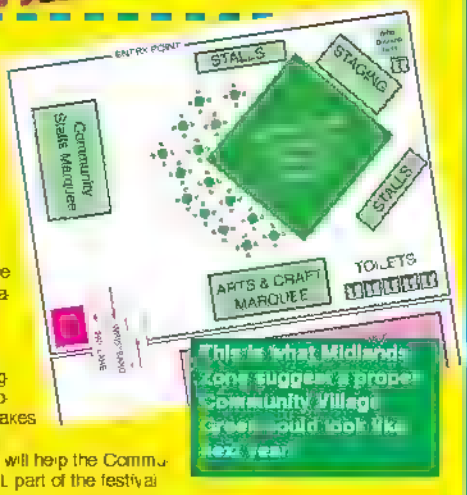
2 GREAT PRIDE AMBASSADORS!

Without the Pride Ambassadors, who volunteered their time for free, there wouldn't be such a great welcome at Birmingham Pride. So we think everybody should join us in congratulating Pat Wilson Smith, Keith Perks and every single Pride Ambassador for a job well done. Legends.

3 WOW! THE BEST EVER LINE-UP

How could they top last year? Well they did. The Main Stage was undoubtedly the biggest and most diverse line-up EVER! A massive well done to organisers Simon Baker, Lawrence and Darren Barton, and David Nash - you all did Birmingham PROUD.

THE LOWS...



1 COMMUNITY VILLAGE GREEN - A DISGRACE FOR LGBT FAMILIES

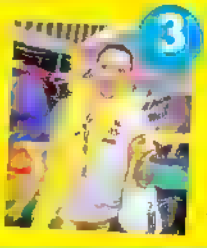
The Community Village Green at Birmingham Pride should be a hive of activity, full of friends and families with their children all enjoying the electric atmosphere that any LGBT community should give. Sadly this year, it wasn't the case with the area's infrastructure and staging being poorly executed to the point that it almost felt like an after thought - there wasn't even any green astro turf!

This MUST NOT be allowed to happen again! We suggest that the Community Village Green should be relocated next year on the site where the funfair usually takes place (and move the funfair next to the Dance Arena). This will provide a larger, more accessible space that will help the Community Village Green regain its stature as an ESSENTIAL part of the festival similar to Pride in 2012 when Birmingham LGBT presented a fantastic community buzz. It ought to still remain the FREE part of Pride - and some form of 'green' needs to be provided for people to sit on, unlike this year where it was forgotten about.

2 WRISTBAND EXCHANGE QUEUES

Ok, so Birmingham Pride may have attracted tens of thousands of people, but the lanes opening up to 45 minutes late on Saturday to exchange your ticket for a wristband is simply unacceptable!

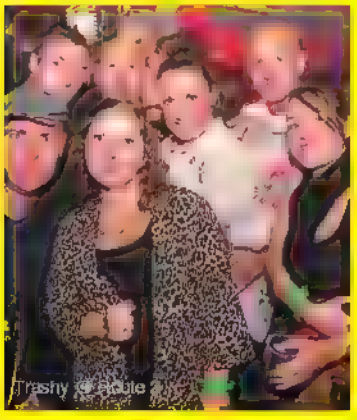
This was the second year running that this has happened, so we would stress to the Pride organisers that it's about time you contracted a different company who can open up on time and be more efficient!

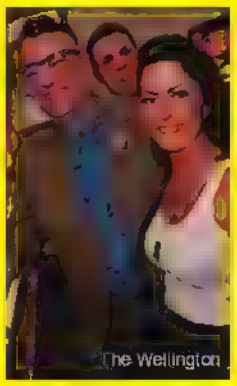


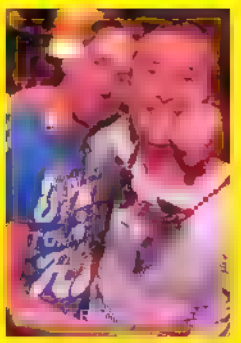
3 THE WET WEATHER!

Despite what that guy from UKIP says, gays can't control the weather and there was unfortunately a bit of heavy rain on the Saturday. However, we made our own sunshine and partied through it anyway! Here's to a fantastic 2015!

PRIDE AT NIGHT

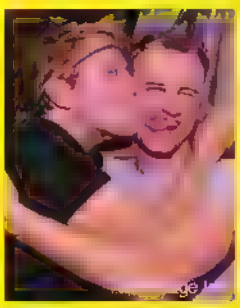






16 PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL

The action at Birmingham Pride kept on going through until the early hours of the morning in Birmingham's busy bars and clubs. Whether it was a quiet drink at the bar or strutting your stuff on the dance floor you know how to party.



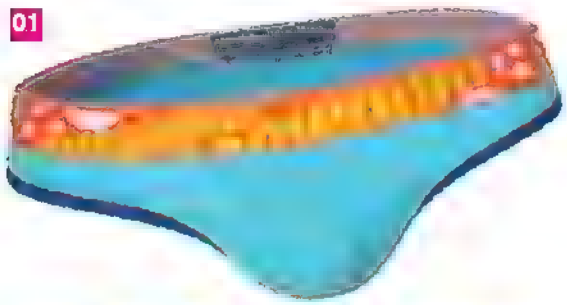
Pictures by: Clive Padden, Laura Byrne, Aaron Dobbins, Heidi Jurgens, Kal Ahmed, Rick Weetman, Ellie Jenkins, Jane Williams, Out n Brum

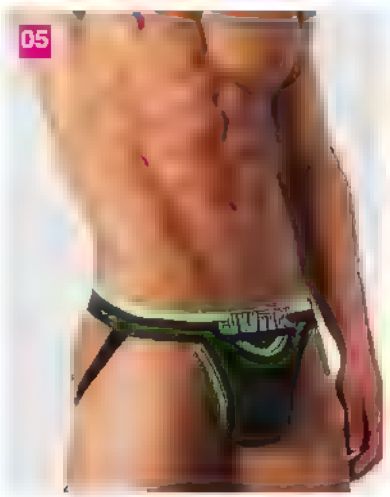
STICKING TO THE BRIEF

This summer's hottest underwear

Andrew Christian Trophy Boy
Flaunt Brief £18.00
www.andrewchristian.com

We wear it every day and it's the last thing to come off in the bedroom, so make sure you're sporting the very best! Yes, we're talking about underwear! Here are some of our favourite briefs, trunks and jocks for the summer months ahead!





01 AussieBum Gelato

Cotton underwear in contrast bright ice cream-inspired colours, with bold waistband details. Classic, durable and timeless, Gelato is the underwear that every man should own!

£10.95
www.aussiebum.com

02 C-IN2 Culture Club Blazer NoShow Brief

These briefs feature a series of uniquely created placement prints. Every piece of the brief has been individually printed, so that when the garment is sewn together it creates a cohesive pattern. This process is rarely used when manufacturing underwear.

£24
www.banglads.com

03 PUMP! Spring Break Jogger Boxer

Made from aqua, white and yellow cotton, these boxers have white mesh pockets, a full cotton double-lined cup with blue piping and stitching, and a 50mm-wide aqua and yellow elasticated waistband.

£25.95
www.prowler.co.uk

04 AussieBum Riot

These high-performance undies are made using a woven sports-mesh fabric that draws moisture away from the body and has custom air-vents for breathability. The futuristic design features a bold metallic waistband, and is available in a brief and a more durable jockstrap.

£14.95
www.aussiebum.com

05 Junk Voyeur Jockstrap

This supportive jockstrap is made from a soft spandex/polyester mix and features a sexy cut-out at the top of the contoured pouch meaning you can subtly show off your intimate area to any admiring eyes!

£25.99
www.clonezone.co.uk

06 Junk Expose Brief

This brief is designed in a soft, stretch-mesh fabric that feels as good as it looks. The supportive pouch at the front keeps your package looking and feeling good.

£25.99
www.clonezone.co.uk

07 Junk Marathon Trunk

This masculine trunk comes in rich blue colouring with crisp white detailing, including a zipper pouch for easy access to your package.

£25.99
www.clonezone.co.uk

SUMMER TIME

Check out our selection of furniture and accessories...

01 Round Stainless Steel Firepit
Stylish, modern firepit, ideal for those summer family barbecues
£70.00
www.tesco.com

02 Cone Hurricane Lamp
This stylish Hurricane table lamp, designed by Pernille Vea for Menu, creates a beautiful atmosphere, whether you use it indoors or outside. The lamp glass is removable, making it easy to light or change the tea light
£35.00
www.black-by-design.co.uk

03 Havana All-Weather Rattan Sunlounger
This top-quality modern Synthetic Rattan Havana Sun Lounger is generously sized and has perfect five-point positioning of the reclining back, right down to flat. Also features handy armrests. L196 x W61 x H45cm
£[illegible]
www.wovenhill.co.uk

04 Bow Hammock
The Bow Hammock is the epitome of style, elegance and precise craftsmanship. The contemporary design will complement any garden or patio, while the ample canvas provides the perfect place to take an afternoon nap. The frame is made from pre-treated larchwood which means it can be left in the garden all year round
£139.00
www.living-tap.co.uk

05 Sicilia Black Rattan Seven-Piece Sofa Set
Family is always at the heart of the Sicilian culture and with this in mind the Sicilia Sofa Set is an experience the entire family can appreciate. Embrace this Mediterranean lifestyle and celebrate the Italian way by entertaining your closest family and friends outdoors with an Antipasto of bruschetta, cured meats and olives. The elegant contemporary Sicilia Sofa Set is all black, inspired by the volcanic landscapes of Sicily
£1,595
www.alexander-francis.co.uk

06 Traditional Wooden Rounders Game
This speaks for itself. A traditional game to play with friends or family on those hot summer days. **£34.50**
www.elfeellie.co.uk

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Birmingham - 84 Hurst Street, B5 4TD
Soho - 35 Old Compton Street, London W1D 5JX
Earls Court - 266 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9HR

Who Wants Ya?

We do!

Birmingham LGBT are seeking to work with Young People (13 -25) to participate in, volunteer with and lead our new Heritage Lottery Funded project

'Coming Out Stories'.

This exciting creative research project will explore what happens when people "come out" and the differences between coming out today and what it was like to "come out" in the recent past.

You can engage with the project at variety of levels; as a participant at one of our events; as a volunteer who would like to gain skills, training & experience in filmmaking, photography, oral history interviewing, marketing and administration.

We are actively seeking volunteers with skills in film & photography.

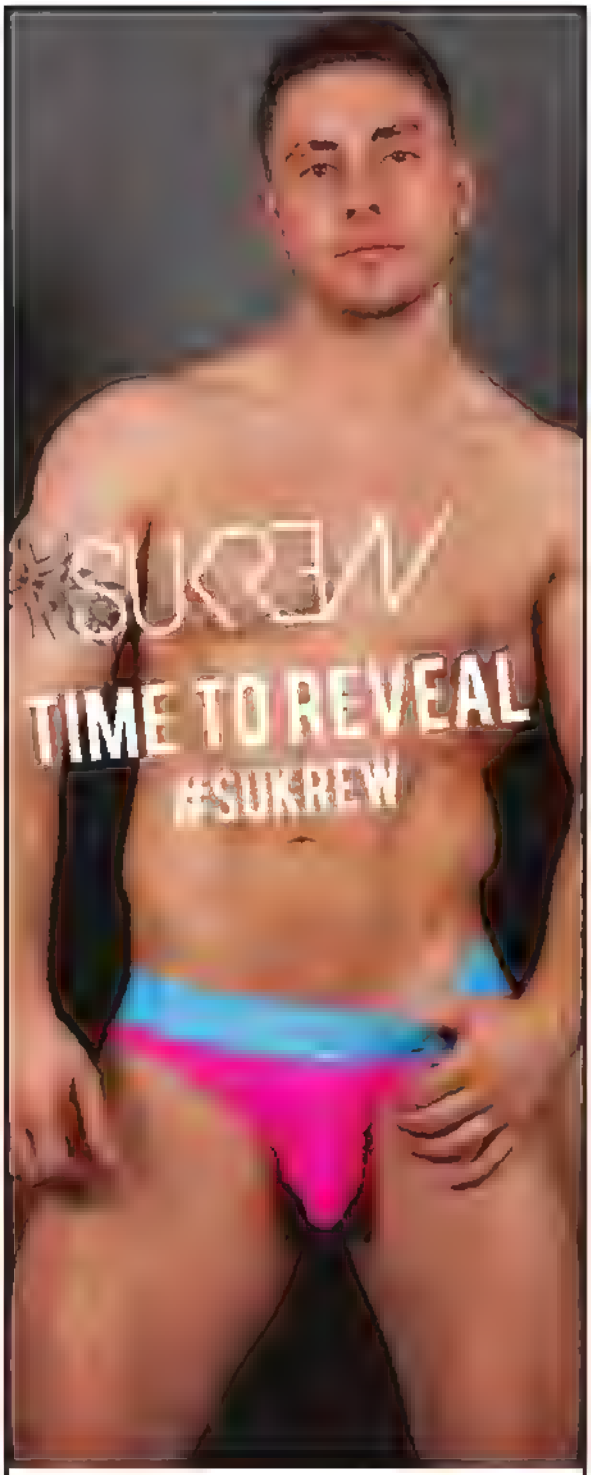
Or you can be part of our Steering Group and receive leadership training, shadowing opportunities and be part of the decision making process.

Want to know more?

Contact: sarahblackstock@blgbt.org
www.blgbt.org 0121 643 0821

birmingham lgbt

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED



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SUKREW.COM

Tremendous Tech!

01 Parrot AR Drone 2.0 Elite Edition

The Parrot AR Drone 2.0 Elite Edition is an advanced ready-to-fly quadricopter suitable for operation indoors or outside. Steer using virtual joysticks, or by tilting a smartphone or tablet. Get high definition live streaming directly to your smartphone or tablet screen, plus a video-recording facility and precision control.

£255.00
www.amazon.co.uk

02 Makerbot Replicator Mini

Unleash creativity with an educational, entertaining and useful 3D printer. Create and print cool things with its companion app, which is easy to use and requires no 3D skills. Experiment with a wide range of colours and textures to print your model quickly. It's the perfect thing to turn your desk into an exciting creativity centre.

£1,200
www.makerbot.com

03 mophie Juice Pack Helium Battery Case

The mophie Juice Pack Helium is the first rechargeable battery case for iPhone 5s. Thanks to its large battery and ultra-thin design, the Helium can extend your iPhone 5s battery life by 80%. The Juice Pack Helium delivers power and protection while complementing the beauty of your iPhone 5s.

£69.95
www.apple.com/uk

04 Tzukuri

If, like us, you're always leaving your sunglasses behind when you need Tzukuri. These sunglasses have embedded beacons that alert your iPhone if you leave them. The companion app will show you exactly where you left them. It works the other way, too - if you leave your phone whilst wearing your sunglasses, your phone will ring extra loudly.

TBC
www.tzukuri.com

05 Microsoft Surface Pro 3

The Microsoft Surface Pro 3 is the latest iteration of the tablet that can replace your laptop. With a 12" display, it has the power of a laptop in a lightweight, versatile form. With the Kickstand, optional Type Cover and multiple ports, the Surface Pro 3 delivers the power, portability and productivity you need!

From £639.00
www.microsoft.com

KYLIE

SEPTEMBER 2014

WED	24	**LIVERPOOL** ECHO ARENA
FRI	26	**MANCHESTER** PHONES 4U ARENA
MON	29	**LONDON** THE O2
TUE	30	**LONDON** THE O2

OCTOBER 2014

WED	01	**LONDON** THE O2 3RD AND FINAL DATE ADDED
FRI	03	**CARDIFF** SOLD OUT POINT ARENA
SAT	04	**NOTTINGHAM** CAPITAL FM ARENA EXTRA DATE ADDED
SUN	05	**NOTTINGHAM** CAPITAL FM ARENA
TUE	07	**BIRMINGHAM** NIA

NOVEMBER 2014

TUE	11	**NEWCASTLE** METRO RADIO ARENA
WED	12	**GLASGOW** SOLD OUT HYDRO
THU	13	**SHEFFIELD** MOTORPOINT ARENA

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

'kiss me once' out now

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VIP Packages inc ud ng Meet & Greet ava lable from VIPNation eu

ROCNATION

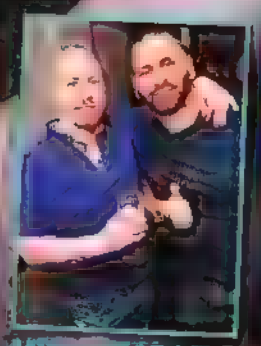
kylie.com

A LIVE NATION AND SJM PRESENTAT ON IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAA

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

SCENE

JUNE 2014



MIDS BEARS
Mommy meet in Birmingham

PLUS

CANADIAN PORN STAR

JAKE BASS

COMES TO BIRMINGHAM

INSIDE...

SUNDAY CABARET
Returns to popular Birmingham gay venue The Village Inn

SIDEFEST 2014
A day of acoustic music, fun and games at Sidewalk

SATURDAY SESSIONS
Popular DJ Simon Baker takes to the decks...

EVERY MONDAY

Fabulous

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

MONDAY 2 JUNE

SANDRA

THE WHORE OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH

FREE ENTRY B4 11PM

DRINKS FROM £1

9PM-3AM!

C:21

MONDAY 7 JULY

VICKY JACKSON AS LADY GA GA

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE. TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

MONDAY
2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | JUNE

The Whore of Hampstead Heath returns to Shrewsbury

Popular Shrewsbury bar and club C:21, which hosts the town's one and only gay night every Monday, is being visited by the incomparable Whore of Hampstead Heath, Sandra, on Monday 2 June. The popular London cabaret star will be presenting an evening of top songs and super-rude comedy, so best leave your grandmother at home on this occasion!
C:21 - Shrewsbury

BIRMINGHAM

2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS ANYONE?

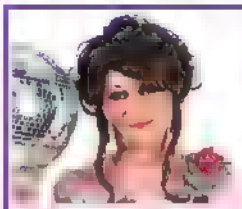
Just because the weekend's ended, it doesn't mean you can't pop out and enjoy yourself after work. Head to Birmingham's Loft Lounge for 2-for-1 cocktails all day! There's a great selection, ensuring there's something for everyone.
The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

❑ **2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

❑ **2 FOR £10** - Monday to Friday 12-6pm. Delicious new menu. **Sidewalk**

❑ **MINISTRY OF POUND** - with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am. **Missing Bar**

❑ **MINISTRY OF POUND** - **Missing Bar**



PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT WITH MRS MILLS

Take a trip to The Village Inn in Birmingham for a night of fun and games with Mrs Mills and DJ Craig.
Good old-fashioned Play Your Cards Right takes place every Monday, with some great prizes to be won!
The Village Inn - Birmingham

❑ **PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT** - with Mrs Mills and DJ Craig. Cash prizes and free drinks. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm. **The Village Inn**

❑ **POUNDED** - Come and get Pounded from 6pm onwards. £1 on selected spirits, £1.50 Jagerbomb / Carling / Strongbow / Sambucca. **Sidewalk**

£1 DRINKS AT BRUM'S SIDEWALK

If you're up for a Monday night out in Birmingham's gay village, then be sure to swing by Sidewalk on Hurst Street. Pounded takes place every Monday, offering great-value drinks from just £1!
Sidewalk - Birmingham

❑ **SUGAR RUSH** - £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs. **Nightingale Club**

MONDAY MADNESS - Weekly drink offers with DJ Matt. **Bar Jester**

OUTSKIRTS - 1st & 3rd Monday monthly. **Equator Bar**

WEST MIDLANDS

❑ **FABULOUS** - *Mon 2 June* - Cabaret with Sandra (the Whore of Hampstead). Drinks from just £1. **C:21, Shrewsbury**

CHILL NIGHT - with Karaoke Three Furnaces. Telford

CHILL OUT NIGHT - with Free Pool and cheap drinks, with DJ Shawn on the decks. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

DENTED - 9pm-midnight. Downstairs with DJ Destiny and upstairs with DJ Lil Jon until 4am. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

THE MONDAY CLUB - 9pm-5am - Student night. Everything's £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward. Gorgeous Wolves

STUDENT NIGHT - Free admission all drinks £1.50 before midnight. Pink, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm till 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston, Northampton

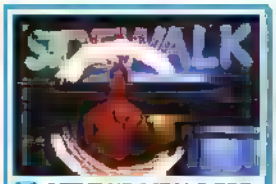
DISCO - 7pm-midnight. New Foresters, Nottingham

SIDEWALK
BAR & RESTAURANT
TRY OUR DELICIOUS NEW MENU
2 FOR £10
Monday - Friday 12-6pm
Roast dinner served Every Sunday from 1pm

WWW.SIDEWALKBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK
TEL: 0121 666 6220

TUESDAY | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | JUNE

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**



GET TWO MEALS FOR A TENNER AT SIDEWALK

If you can't be bothered to cook one night during the week, then find a pal and take them to Sidewalk bar in Birmingham (12-6pm). You'll be able to grab two meals for £10 from their delicious new menu!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

2 FOR £10 - Monday to Friday 12-6pm. Delicious new menu. **Sidewalk**

MIS-SING KARAOKE - With your host, James. Party starts at 9pm til late. **Missing Bar**

TACKY TUESDAYS - with Charlotte and Miss Penny. Songs, Games & Prizes. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm. **The Village Inn**

KARAOKE FUN AT MISSING BAR IN BRUM

If you're out and about in Birmingham on a Tuesday night but not sure where to go, why not head for the city's Missing Bar to enjoy an evening of karaoke fun with DJ James? Have a drink with your mates, and get your lungs warmed up and ready to sing your favourite songs. The fun kicks off at 9pm every Tuesday - and there are cheap drinks too!
It certainly beats staying at home in front of the telly!

Missing - Birmingham

TUNE UP TUESDAY - Fun & Games with Barry G. Happy Hour until 2am. Happy Hour 2am-4am. Open 10pm-4am. Bar Jester

CAMP QUIZ - With free buffet. Quiz starts 8.30pm. Three Furnaces, Telford

DIVERSITY - Weekly gay-friendly night with DJ Jay playing everything from pop & hip hop to indie. Velvet, Worcester

Penny and Charlotte at Gay Tuesday at Birmingham

If you're stuck for things to do on a Tuesday night, then make a point of popping in to one of Birmingham's favourite gay bars, The Village Inn. Miss Penny and Charlotte the Harlotte are on hand every Tuesday with a night of tacky fun. Join them to win a host of great prizes - from free drinks behind the bar to free admission to The Nightingale. They'll even belt out a song or two for you!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

FLAUNT - A twist of awesome tunes to suit everyone. Brewery Tap, Worcester

MISS DOLLY MIXTURES - Party Night with Dolly and DJ Sammie's Karaoke and cabaret. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

STUDENT PARTY - Join DJ Vikki Scott for Walsall's biggest Tuesday night party. The Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm til 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston, Northampton

CHILL OUT NIGHT - Free Pool 6pm-midnight. New Foresters, Nottingham

GAMES NIGHT - Free Pool and Nintendo Wii from 8pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

WEDNESDAY | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | JUNE

SHAKEN OR STIRRED AT SIDEWALK?

Pop in to Birmingham's Sidewalk for 2-for-1 cocktails from their all-new cocktail menu. They're yummy!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Shake your tail feathers at Sidewalks new 2 for 1 cocktail menu. **Sidewalk**

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

2 GOOD 2 MISS - Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mykee. **Missing Bar**

GET WACKY THIS WEDNESDAY IN BRUM

There's some midweek fun to be had every Wednesday night at Birmingham's favourite late-night venue, Bar Jester
If you're looking for a great way to spend your night, stop by and say hi to host-for-the-evening Hattie James and DJ Craig, who'll be spinning the tunes!

Bar Jester - Birmingham

KARAOKE - with Charlotte the Harlotte and DJ Deano. Free Shots for all participants. Happy Hour 12noon-8pm. **The Village Inn**

HAVE YOU GOT THE VOICE OF BIRMINGHAM?

If you think you've got a singing voice to rival Beyonce, Ellie Goulding or Gary Barlow, then pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show it off to Charlotte The Harlotte and DJ Deano. Sadly, there are no recording contracts for the best singers!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

MIDWEEK MAYHEM - Free Pool. Open 7-11pm. The Fox

WACKY WEDNESDAYS - Hosted by Hattie James with DJ Craig. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-4am. Bar Jester

Midweek fun with DJ Mykee at Missing - it's 2 Good 2 Miss!

Missing Bar in Birmingham certainly knows how to throw an awesome party, regardless of which day of the week it is! Pop in for a night of top fun, great tunes and cheap drinks in the company of DJ Mykee and the rest of the venue's team.

Missing - Birmingham

Dancing every Wednesday. The Wellington

KY KELLY - and host. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

STUDENT CLUB NIGHT - Live DJs, drinks promotions. Free before 10pm, £4 after. Three Furnaces, Telford

GAMES NIGHT - Free Pool 1pm-2am. Drinks from £1.20 a day. Karaoke & Disco 7pm-2am. New Foresters, Nottingham

KARAOKE - 9pm til 3am. £2 drinks from 8pm til 11pm. Free Entry. The Boston, Northampton

OUT - Everyone's Out! Free entry for students. £1 drinks 11-5am. NG1, Nottingham

Go and get Pounded at The Nightingale!

Each and every Thursday night sees the students of Birmingham's LGBT community descend on the city's gay village. One popular place for them to party is gay superclub The Nightingale. It's here that you'll find DJ Corey spinning the tunes and Marty singing her heart out. It's £5 entry all night long, and drinks start at just £1. This makes it a cheap night out - so if you're on a budget, it'll be right up your street!

The Nightingale - Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

2 FOR £10 - Monday to Friday 12-6pm. Delicious new menu. **Sidewalk**

I ♥ THE 90S - with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm. **Eden Bar**

BOMBZAI - £1 20 Bombs - 10 to choose from. Se ected drinks from £1.50. DJ Mykee tak-

DJ DAN GOES BACK TO THE 1990s!

Join DJ Dan every Thursday night at popular Birmingham gay venue Eden Bar on Sherlock Street. Here, you'll find an awesome selection of tracks that were HUGE in the 1990s, some of which still fill the dancefloors in 2014! The fun kicks off at 6pm.

Eden - Birmingham

ing you through to the early hours. **Missing Bar**

DJ DEANO - On the decks. Happy Hour 12noon-2am. **The Village Inn**

DROP THE BOMB AT SIDEWALK IN BRUM!

Head to Birmingham's Sidewalk bar every Thursday night for Drop The Bomb! You'll be able to get your hands on a huge selection of bomb shooters for just £1.50. There's music from DJ Rowan all night too!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

DROP THE BOMB - start of your weekend - £1.50 on all bombs (excluding the Gutterbomb) with our resident DJ Rowan

MARTY'S MADHOUSE - Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano. **The Village Inn**

POUNDED - £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor, M ss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor. **Nightingale Club**

GIRL THING - Open 7-late Drinks from £1. The Fox

PARTY POP - Poptastic tuna e with DJ Matt. Happy Hour unti

2am. Open 10pm-6am. Bar Jester

THE URBAN COLLECTION - Brum s new Urban night. Every Thursday 10pm-late. Club DV8

WEST MIDLANDS

[illegible] cabaret with Jayne Van Camp. Three Furnaces Telford

CLUB KARAOKE - with DJ Zac The Lion, We sa

SET YOUR - with Dc Tejay. The Be Stourbr ge

POP 69! 9pm-5am. Drinks from st 69p until 2am, then £1 until close. W a Dos Scottie B Jo u & Ayden C Gorgeo is Wolverhampton

RETRO - with DJ Gaz on the decks. Drinks from £1 ys Play Your Cards Right. The White Hart Wolverhampton

[illegible] with DJ Sa le Karaoke and drinks from £1. 2pm late. Free acnes s on a nigh The Factory Stoke on Tren.

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm ti 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston Northampton

[illegible] 7pm-2am. New Fore ters Nottingham

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

2 FOR £10 - Monday to Friday 12-6pm. Delicious new menu. **Sidewalk**

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES - DJ Parm, takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too! **Sidewalk**

IT'S A BIG GAY FRIDAY AT MISSING

Missing Bar in Birmingham is on a mission to turn Friday night into the gayest night in the city. Join DJ James for Big Gay Fridays, when he'll be playing party anthems through till the early hours. It's great fun, so why not pop by?

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours. **Missing Bar**

DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki **Eden Bar**

FREAKY FRIDAY - with DJ Lotty. Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. *Fri 6 June* - Miss Thunderpussy. *Fri 13 June* - Drag Idol regional Semi Final, hosted by Titty La Camp. *Fri 20 June* - Lady Imelda. *Fri 27 June* - Sandra. Happy Hour 12noon - 8pm. **The Village Inn**

GET INFUSED AT THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ Corey takes to the decks every Friday night at Birmingham gay superclub The Nightingale, playing absolute anthems and fantastic floor-fillers. It's £2 admission, and drinks start at just £2 all night long!

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2 **Nightingale Club**

KICK START - Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James. **Missing Bar**

L8R - With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday. **The Village Inn**

LIP GLOSS - *Fri 6 June* - with host Trisha. Every first Friday of the month. A night for the Trans community (friends welcome). 9pm-2am £3 admission. **Eden Bar**

MEET UP WITH THE MIDSBEARS IN EDEN

Midsbears' monthly meet-up takes place every third Friday of the month at Eden Bar in Birmingham. Midsbears is a social group for bears and their admirers, so pop along and say hi to lots of likeminded people before heading to XXL!

MIDSBEARS - *Fri 20 June* - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers. **Eden Bar**

RETRO FRIDAY WITH DJ MATT AT BAR JESTER

Head to Birmingham's late-night club Bar Jester for a night of retro tunes with resident DJ Matt. There's happy hour from 10pm till 2am, and the venue is open until the breakfast hour of 6am. But have you got the stamina to last till dawn? ..

SING STAR SUPERSTAR - with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash! **Eden Bar**

VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown Northern Soul and all the classic favourites. **The Loft Lounge**

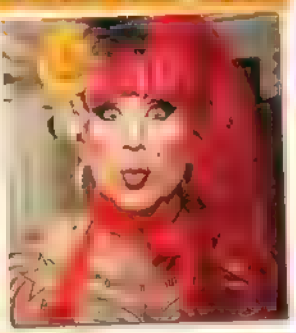
XXL PRE-BAR - *Fri 20 June* - Official pre-bar for XXL. Monthly meet up for the Midlands Bears. **Eden Bar**

Lip Gloss

Every first Friday of the month sees Lip Gloss, the Midlands' biggest and best night for the trans* community, taking place at Eden Bar. This month, it's on Friday the 6th and costs just £3 entry. The night's hosted by Trisha, and welcomes the trans* community, their friends and admirers for an evening of great fun and entertainment. It takes place between 9pm and 2am in Eden Bar's marquee. Pop along and enjoy.

Village Inn

Life is a cabaret, old chum. Well, that's how the famous song lyric goes, anyway. If you're a fan of top-quality drag entertainment, then make a stop at Birmingham's Village Inn, where they host a great act every Friday night. This month features Miss Thunderpussy (Fri 6), the Drag Idol Regional Semi-Final with Titti La Camp (Fri 13), Lady Imelda (Fri 20) and Sandra, the Whore of Hampstead Heath (Fri 27).



MEN-ONLY FUN AT BRUM'S CORE CLUB

The Midlands' biggest men-only night, XXL, returns on Friday 20 June (the third Friday of the month) at Birmingham's Core Club. Expect a dancefloor packed with men, and epic tunes from DJ Christian M

XXL - *Fri 20 June* - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month. **The Core Club**

BOLLYWOOD NIGHTS Every last Friday monthly. Club DV8

FUNK'D UP - (alternate Saturdays) Upfunking funky, vocal house. 11pm til 6am. £5 til 2am £8 after. Club Chic

KARAOKE - Come and have a sing to start your weekend. The Fox

RETRO FRIDAY - Retro tunes with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-6am. Bar Jester

SO IT GOES - *Fri 13 June*. Club Chic

TV PARTY NIGHT - A Men's Night for TVs, Cross Dressers and Admirers. Every Friday night at **The Greenhouse**, Darlaston

[illegible] - with DJ Shawn and DJ Moses 8pm-4am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos until 9.45. Free entry before 10pm. The Three Furnaces Telford

[illegible] with DJ Zac The Lion. Walsall

FRIDAY SOCIAL - with DJ Paul Griff & guests. The Bell Stourbridge

[illegible] & VENOM

1st Fri monthly. Drinks from £1 until midnight, with resident DJs. Gorgeous Club, Wolverhampton

PARTY NIGHT - with DJ Laura. All your favourites from the 70's 80's, 90's and 00's. Rainbows Coventry

START THE WEEKEND - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hyde's cabaret show from 9pm. Pink, Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY - A fun and funky mixture of 70s, high energy through to current chart. Brewery Tap, Worcester

VENOM - Foxy Divine downstairs 9pm-midnight. DJ Dyson & DJ Ibbs upstairs from 11pm. The Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

CABARET NIGHT - every Friday night from 11pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

DJ ROB LAMBETH TAKES TO THE DECKS

As featured in this month's Local Life Story, DJ Rob Lambeth takes to the decks at Leicester gay club Helsinki every Friday night. He'll be playing the latest and greatest chart-toppers all night long. Pop in for a great night out!

CLUB NIGHT - with DJ Rob Lambeth from midnight playing chart toppers. Helsinki, Leicester

LIPSTIQUE - With DJ Ash playing old skool camp classics. Every 2nd,3rd & 4th Friday monthly. Curzons, Derby

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday night with DJ CraigY T. £8 entry, £1 drinks. Open 9pm-4.30am. The Boston, Northampton

VALUE FRIDAY - Disco 9pm-4am. Free entry. New Foresters Nottingham

[illegible] Free admission before 11pm (all night for students). BOGOF on selected drinks. Poptastic every last friday monthly. NG1 Nottingham

WIG OUT - New monthly 70s night. Sloanes, Leicester

XXL LONDON

WEDNESDAYS 10PM - 3AM
SATURDAYS 10PM - 8AM
PULSE
No.1 INVICTA PLACE SE1 9UF

WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM

BIRMINGHAM

3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
9PM - 3AM
THE CORE
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON

BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS - with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions. **Eden Bar**

THE ATTIC - Available for hire. Call the venue for more info - 0121 622 4256. **Missing Bar**

BACK TO THE 80S - 2am - 4am. **Eden Bar**

DJ YOGI WHIPS UP A FRENZY AT BEARBRUM

Head down to Birmingham's Eden Bar on Saturday 7 June for a night of fun with bears and their admirers. DJ Yogi will be on hand, playing the best music and creating a great atmosphere. Lots of hot men too! Eden - Birmingham

BEARBRUM - *Sat 7 June* Free food. With DJ Yogi. In association with Mids Bears. Sports wear theme. **Eden Bar**

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE

Join DJs Lotty and Richard Moon every Saturday night at The Village Inn in Birmingham for an evening of great music, ensuring you get your Saturday night off to a memorable start. See you on the dancefloor!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - Over 2 floors, 3 DJs Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground. **The Village Inn**

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT - Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions. **Nightingale Club**

CULT - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm. **Nightingale Club**

JAKE BASS - *Sat 28 June* - plus Amateur Strip Contest. Meet & Greet session with picture included. £10 admission. **Nightingale Club**

#JUSTSAYING AT BAR JESTER

If you're on a night out and looking for a late place to party, head to Bar Jester in Brum. DJ Matt's on the decks until the early hours, ensuring there's plenty of opportunity to dance, party, and get good n'sweaty.

Bar Jester - Birmingham

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS - in The Attic, plus music from across the decades. **Missing**

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS AT MISSING

If you like a sing-song and karaoke's your thing, pop along to The Attic above Missing for a night of karaoke, cocktails and music from across the decades. It's a top laugh and a great way to start your night.

Missing - Birmingham

L8R - With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 8am every Saturday. **The Village Inn**

SATURS-FACTION AT BRUM'S SIDEWALK

Pop along to Birmingham's Sidewalk bar on your Saturday night out and join DJ Kam as he rips up the dancefloor with a massive playlist of the best tracks. The venue's got some great drinks offers too!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

SATURS-FACTION - Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything. **Sidewalk**

Porn star Jake Bass to appear at amateur strip contest

Hot n'hunky Canadian porn star Jake Bass is this month appearing at Birmingham's Nightingale Club, as part of the club's amateur strip contest. And you can meet the man himself if you buy a special £10 VIP ticket! If you think you've got what it takes to enter the contest, pop along on Saturday 28 June.

The Nightingale - Birmingham

Sidewalk hosts a day of fun and music with Sidefest

With summer here and the festival season kicking off, Birmingham bar Sidewalk is hosting its very own event on Saturday 28 June. Sidefest consists of numerous games, performers and acoustic acts, and there's even a BBQ from 3pm. Oh, and if you spend more than a fiver on draught beer, you'll get a free burger too!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

SATURDAY SESSIONS WITH SIMON

Join DJ Simon Baker and the rest of the Loft Lounge team for a night of great tunes, to get you and your friends geared up for some spectacular fun in Birmingham's gay village. Pop in from 8pm!

The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm. **The Loft Lounge**

SHORT SHORTS & BATTY RIDER PARTY - *Sat 21 June* - Discounted admission for everyone wearing short shorts. Usual fun & DJs. 3 floors, 4 rooms, 5 bars. **Nightingale Club**

SIDEFEST - *Sat 28 June* - Games, performers, face painting, acoustic acts throughout the day, BBQ from 3pm. **Sidewalk**

WE <3 SATURDAYS - with DJ Mykee playing the best party tunes. Featuring Twiggy and sexy Shane on his stilts. Open until 4am. **Missing Bar**

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every Saturday. The ultimate morning Night Out with DJs Benny Rock, Wayne Baird, Scotty Upstairg, funky vocal house, jackin house and speed garage. Free before 12am, £12 guests, £10 members, £8 students. Club Chic

DJ NIKKI 1st Saturday monthly. Equator Bar

DJ PARTY NIGHT Open from 3pm-late. The Fox

JUST SAYING with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 12am. Open 9pm-2am every night. Bar Jester

KARAOKE Every Saturday at The Wellington

KUDOS - BIG REUNION *Sat 21 June* Club Chic

WEST MIDLANDS

THE ANTIDOTE Drum & Bass Campo showcasers from 4pm, Destiny Dyson upstairs from 11.30pm. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

BIG NIGHT OUT Big Dubs and Bass 8pm-3.30am. The Lion, Wolverhampton

CAMP & SLAG 9pm-4am. Drinks from £1.50, retro mix night. DJ Paul Gardener until 12.30am, then Saturday Night Fever until sunrise. Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos until 9.45pm. Free entry before 10pm. The Three Furnaces, Telford

FLOORFILLERS - with DJ Andrew Smith. Rainbows, Coventry

GLOUCESTER PRIDE *Sat 14 June* Gloucester Park, Gloucester

INCLUSION with big name Birmingham & UK DJs every week. The Bell, Stourbridge

LIVE CABARET With DJs Gaz and Shawn. 11am. Live cabaret at 12.30pm. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

NOT TO MISS Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hynes cabaret show 9pm. Pink, Stoke on Trent

WARWICKSHIRE PRIDE *Sat 28 June* Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT 11pm-11am. Free entry before 11pm, £3 before 1am and £5 after. The Boston, Northampton

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 10.30pm-3.30am. 3 DJs. With DJ Cola. Free admission before midnight (student discounts). NG1, Nottingham

CLUB NIGHT With DJs Nik B playing tech-heavy and deep bangers from midnight. Free entry before midnight, £6 after. Hedonism, Leicester

DISCO DJs 9am-4am. Free entry. New Foresters, Nottingham

DOGGY STYLE Every 3rd Saturday monthly. Corazon, Derby

THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB
PRESENTS
THE UK'S
DRAG RACE
GUEST JUDGE
SHARON NEEDLES
SATURDAY 5TH JULY
HUGE CASH PRIZE £1000

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

2 FOR £10 - New menu. Roast Dinner served every Sunday from 1pm. Sidewalk

DISCO & KARAOKE WITH DJ NIKKI AT EDEN

Pop along to Eden bar in Birmingham for a night of karaoke and a disco every Sunday. It's a great way to end the weekend and gear yourself up for the dreaded return to work on a Monday morning!

Eden - Birmingham

DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday. Eden Bar

MISSING PRESENTS - Cabaret every Sunday hosted by one of their fabulous drag queens. Missing Bar

SUNDAY CABARET AT BRUM'S MISSING BAR

Each and every Sunday at Birmingham s Missing Bar there's cabaret aplenty to enjoy - hosted by one of the bar's fabulous drag queens. Be sure to pop along if you're looking for a Sunday night laugh.

Missing - Birmingham

SUNDAY BREAKFAST - The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95. The Loft Lounge

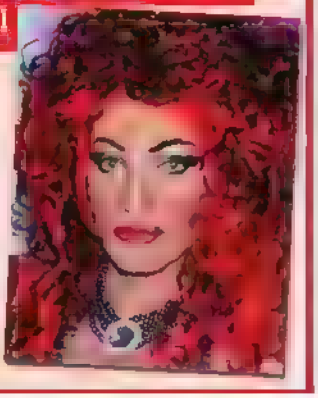
SUNDAY CABARET - *Sun 1 June* - Mrs Mills. *Sun 8 June* - Linda Legs. *Sun 15 June* - Timmona Hooker. *Sun 22 June* - Charlotte The Harlotte. *Sun 29 June* - Divine Miss M. The Village Inn

SUNDAY SESSION - with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. Plus Bingo with Mrs Mills from 7pm. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm. The Village Inn

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER - served from 1pm. Cure that hangover and choose from a variety of meats with all the best bits of a roast for only £6.95. Sidewalk

CHILLAX - Look out for the special Sunday promotions. Open 3pm-late. The Fox

Sunday night cabaret back at The Village Inn



If you've missed weekly cabaret on a Sunday night at The Village Inn, fear not - because it's back! Yes, you can now pop down for a laugh every Sunday evening - and boy, do they have a great line-up sorted for you this month! Kicking off proceedings is Mrs Mills (Sun 1), then it's Linda Legs (Sun 8), Timona Hooker (Sun 15) and Charlotte the Harlotte (Sun 22). Divine Miss M wraps up the month nicely on the 29th.

The Village Inn - Birmingham

SUNDAY GRUB AT SIDEWALK IN BRUM

If you went out on Saturday night and you're suffering a bit, then pop into Sidewalk for a cheeky roast dinner from 1pm. There's a selection of meats available, and it all costs just £6.95!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

FLASH BACK - Sun 22 June. Turning back time with a very special original star of the 80s 90s music scene. Bar Jester

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY - with Barry G. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-4am. Bar Jester

THREE COURSE LUNCH - only £7.50. The Wellington

QUEENS OF DRAG - with Marty Tiny Barrie Kruger Jnr Ora Mc on residency from 11pm. Plus Karaoke. The White Hart Wolverhampton

BALLROOM PARTY NIGHT - Open 7pm-2am with drink promotions. Three Furnaces Telford

SHABBA SUNDAY - with Foxy Dr. les Disco Bingo 8pm-1am. The Factory Stoke on Trent

SUMMER SUNDAYS - All day pool parties, BBQ, Hand made cocktails, Garden Bar, Mid-day to Midnight. The Lion Bar & Club Walsall

SUNDAY ROAST - Served from 2am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

WEST MIDLANDS

CHILL OUT - After the party. Rainbows Coventry

CLUB SUNDAY - Free admission, selected 2 for 1 drinks. Frederick's Lion Bar & Club Walsall

MARTY'S PARTY - 9pm-4am. Fun & Games, Karaoke, Prizes and all round mayhem. Drinks from £2. Gardeners Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB - Brunch for £5 with unlimited soft drinks and all day 3pm. Rainbow & Dove Leicester

KARAOKE & DISCO - 7pm-2am. New Foresters Northampton

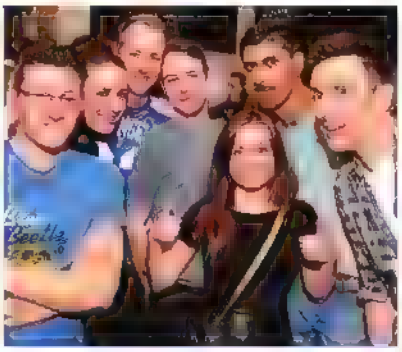
KARAOKE WITH JOEYOKE - 9pm-2am. £6 cocktail planners with free entry overnight. The Boston Northampton

Turning back time at Birmingham's Bar Jester

The team at Birmingham's Bar Jester have a very special night planned for Sunday 22 June, when they'll be turning back time with their club night, Flash Back. The event will feature a special guest star from the 1980s and '90s music scene. It's set to be a great night, so be sure to pop down and say hi to Cherub and the team.

Bar Jester - Birmingham

Start off with something sparkly at **The Loft Lounge**



If you're looking for a great night out and fancy some drinks with a bit more kick, pop into Birmingham's Loft Lounge for a cocktail or two.

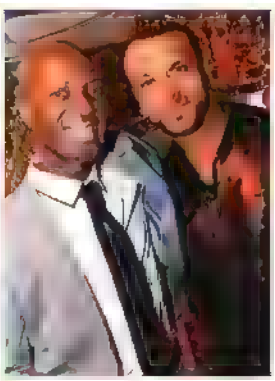
Located on Bromsgrove Street, right in the heart of the city's gay village, The Loft Lounge serves a fantastic selection of cocktails, spirits, beers, wines and Champagne – there's pretty much something for everybody.

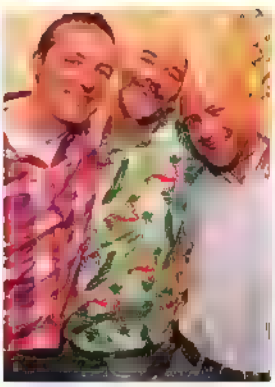
Want some food too? They've got a fantastic menu available for lunch and dinner every day of the week, so sit back, sample – and enjoy!

There's a great atmosphere at The Loft Lounge, with top music from resident DJ Simon Baker getting you in the mood to move on to your favourite gay club.

For more information about The Loft Lounge, to book a table or browse its menu, visit ***www.theloftlounge.co.uk*** *or call 0121 622 2444.*

More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk





Pictures by **Laura Byrne & Anthony Collins**

LET US ENT

The Village Inn :: BIRMINGHAM'S No.1

Freaky Fridays

L8R

NOW OPEN TILL

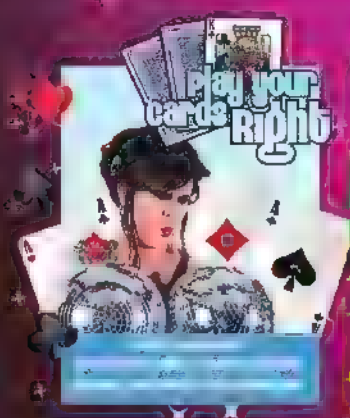
6AM

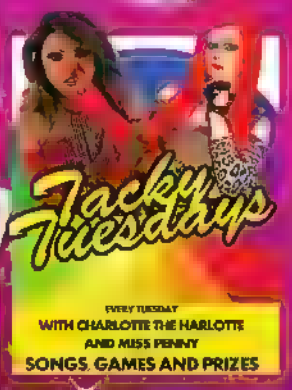
Friday 06
Miss Thunderpussy

Friday 13
Regional Semi final

Friday 20
Hadja Imelda

Friday 27
Sandra





WEDNESDAY

KARAOKE

WITH CHARLOTTE THE HARLOTTE
AND DJ DEANO MIXES

FREE SHOT FOR
ALL SINGERS

HAPPY HOUR
TILL 2 AM

3 CHANCES TO WIN

The Village Inn

CASH JACKPOTS

Jacky Tuesdays

BINGO

HAPPY HOUR

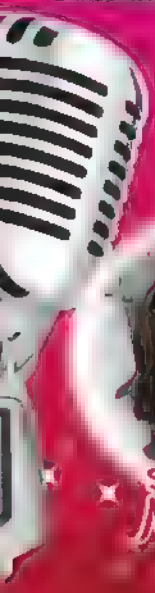
12PM - 10PM : SUN- WEDNESDAY
12PM - 2AM : THURSDAY NIGHT
12PM - 8PM: FRIDAY NIGHT

ERTAIN YOU

CABARET VENUE AS VOTED BY YOU!

In June

Sunday Cabaret



Sunday 01
Mrs Mills

Sunday 15
Timmona Hooker

Sunday 29
Divine Miss M

Sunday 08
Lindsay Leas

Sunday 22
Charlotte The Harlotte

VILLAGE INN BIRMINGHAM

OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK :
12 PM - TILL LATE

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM

drinkaware.co.uk

The Village Inn

0121 622 4742
152 HURST STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B5 6RY
WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

Gettin' jiggy with Twiggy at Birmingham's **Missing**!

If you love to party and you're popping into Birmingham's gay village on a Saturday night, make sure you stop by Missing Bar for a drink and a dance!

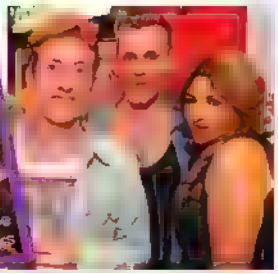
There, you'll be greeted by the fabulous Twiggy - in her hand made costumes - who'll make sure you have a great time in the popular party bar.

There are plenty of musical delights to enjoy from resident DJ Mykee. He'll be playing a mix of all things camp, cheese, pop, commercial, dance and chart so you're bound to hear something you can boogie away to.

If you fancy some fun during the week, pop into the venue on a Thursday, when Birmingham's LGBT student night gets into full swing. There are twenty bombs from just £1.20 and selected drinks from £1.50, which means that whatever your budget for the night, you'll be able to have a great time with your mates.

So the next time you hit Hurst Street, pop in and see the ever-so-friendly team at Missing Bar and party like there's no tomorrow.

*For more information, visit **www.missingbar.co.uk**, or call them on 0121 622 4256*



More great photos on **facebook**

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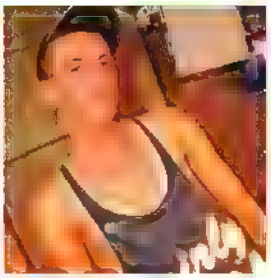
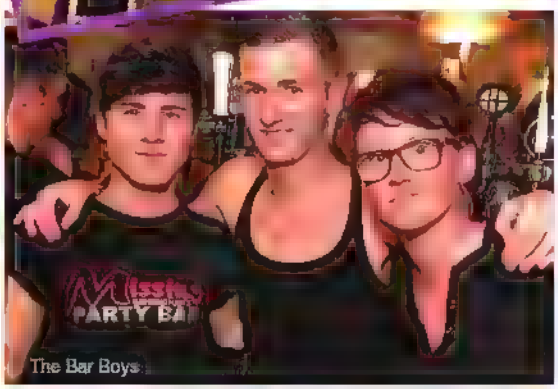
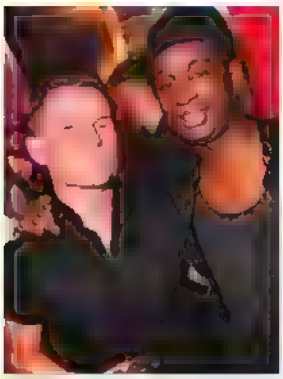
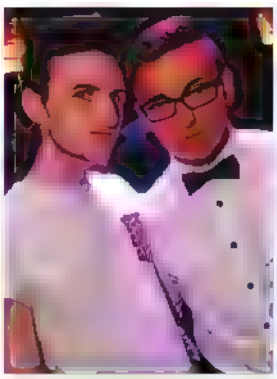








Pictures by **Laura Byrne and Anthony Collins**

the party continues...

Missing

...7 days a week!

£1 DRINKS
EVERY MONDAY
SELECTED DRINKS

£2 DRINKS
EVERY WEDNESDAY

2 GOOD 2 MISS!

M is for ing
KARAOKE
EVERY TUESDAY

BOMBZAI
£1.20 BOMBS
EVERY THURSDAY

BIG
80's 90's & TODAY
GAY
EVERY FRIDAY

We ♥ Saturday
BIGGEST PARTY
EVERY SATURDAY

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS
IN THE ATTIC
EVERY SATURDAY

Missing presents...
CABARET
EVERY SUNDAY

Eden proves popular with the men of the Midlands!

Birmingham's Eden Bar is the city's favourite gay venue for men, attracting hundreds of 'em each and every weekend!

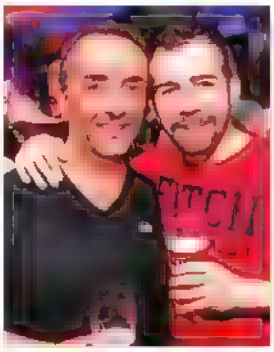
It s the great atmosphere, great decor and great staff that make the venue so popular The wood-panelled walls and Chesterfield sofas give the place an air of elegance - a bit like a gentleman's club.

Music comes from the lovely DJ Dan every Saturday night, with a mix of chart, cheese, pop and - later in the evening - '80s hits to enjoy

So pop in to Eden on your next night out and see for yourself why the venue won multiple categories at the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards earlier this year

The Eden team are a ways happy to see new faces, as are the customers - so why not drop by and make some brand new buddies?

*Visit **www.theedenbar.co.uk** now for more information!*



DJ Dan Williams

More great photos on facebook
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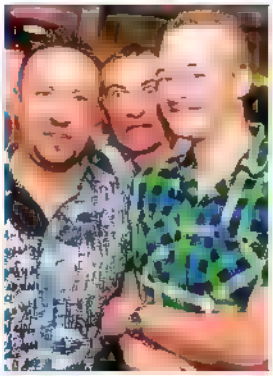


Pictures by **Laura Byrne & Anthony Collins**

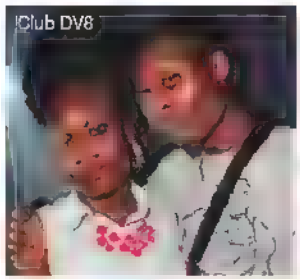
Around Birmingham's **Gay Village**

Within Birmingham's amazing gay village there's plenty of venues for you to enjoy - including DV8, The Fox and Equator.

Here's a small collection of photos that our photographer snapped at these venues last month

They're all great venues, and we'd recommend popping in for a drink After all, without your support, they wouldn't be here for us to enjoy

We might see you at the bar!



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Open from 2pm every day.
116 Sherlock Street Birmingham B5 6NB
0121 622 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk
eden JUNE
Thank you all for a fantastic Pride
FRI 6th
SAT 7th
BEAR BRUM
MidsBears
FRI 20th
EVERY THURS
EVERY FRI & SUN
EVERY SAT
I ♥ THE 90s
90s HITS WITH DJ DAN
GREAT ATMOSPHERE WITH HAPPY HOUR PRICES FROM 9pm
KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI
COME ALONG & SING WITH A FRIENDLY REGULAR CROWD
80s HITS WITH DJ DAN
POP & DANCE TILL 2
80s FROM 2-4 AM &
CRAZY DRINK PRICES

There's definitely more than one gay in **The Village Inn**

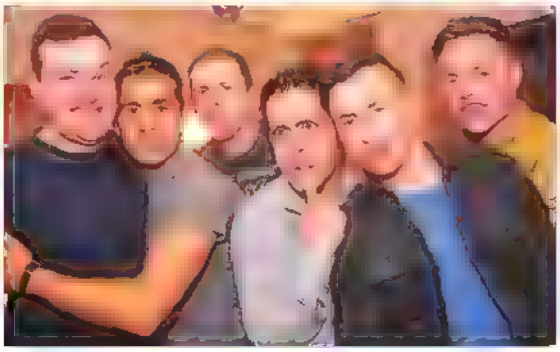
That's right, there are hundreds packing the dancefloor each and every week!

With a great line-up of DJs, The Village Inn is a one-stop shop for Birmingham's LGBT community, offering weekend revellers the chance to let their hair down and party until 8am!

If you're a fan of cabaret, The Village hosts an amazing act each and every Friday night Join DJ Lotty for some fun and games with Miss Thunderpussy, Lady Imelda and Sandra!

This month sees cabaret fans being treated to the regional semi-final of Drag Idol hosted by Titti La Camp. Check out our Scene diary to see when your favourite act takes to the Birmingham bar's stage!

For more information about The Village Inn, head to ***www.villagebirmingham.co.uk*** *or call 0121 622 4742.*



facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk

Pictures by **Laura Byrne & Antony Collins**

The Nightingale knows how to party hard!

The Nightingale is Birmingham's award-winning gay superclub - and judging by the crowds of people who head there every weekend, it's certainly worthy of its impressive status!

Thousands of partygoers flock to The Gaze each and every week because there's something for everyone. Spread over three floors, you can take your pick of music to dance away the night to.

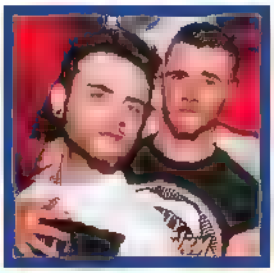
The bottom floor is where it all happens - commercial dance, pop, chart, R'n'B and more - and also boasts a massive dance floor and sexy podium dancers.

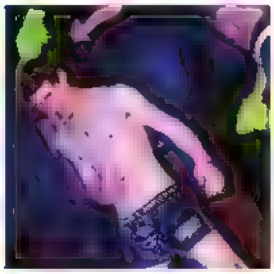
Take a trip upstairs for cheesy pop and live cabaret from the one and only Miss Marty. Head up the stairs one more time and you can dance to something a bit harder.

This month sees The Nightingale host an amateur strip contest, with a special guest appearance from porn star Jake Bass. What a cutie!

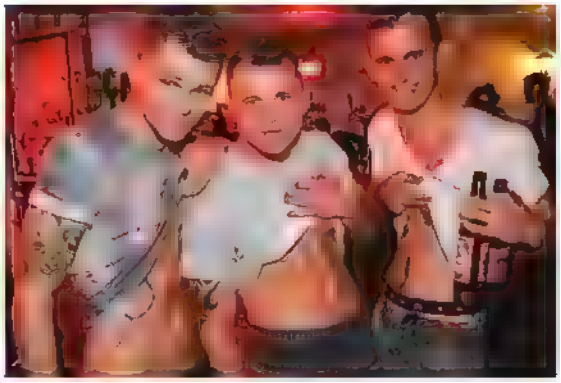
So why not pop along on Saturday 28 June for what's set to be a hot'n steamy night of fun!

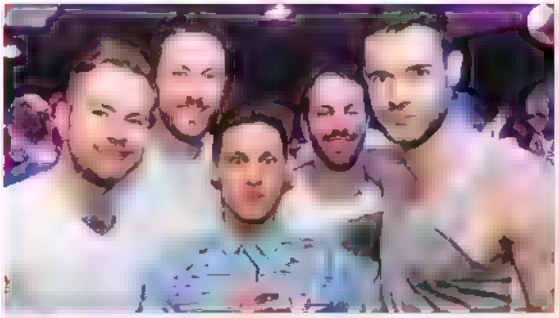
For more information about The Nightingale, check out its website at ***www.nightingaleclub.co.uk*** *or call 0121 622 1718.*

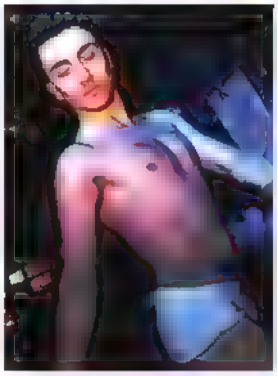




More great photos on **facebook**







Pictures by **Laura Byrne & Anthony Collins**

Dance till dawn at Birmingham's **Bar Jester!**

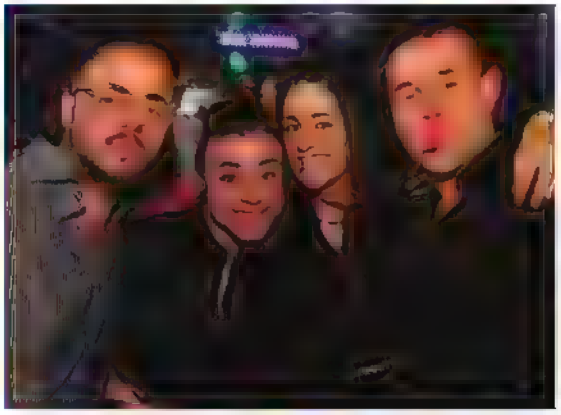
Bar Jester - on the outskirts of Birmingham's gay village - is a great place to end your night out. And the good news is that you can party right through until 6am every Saturday night!

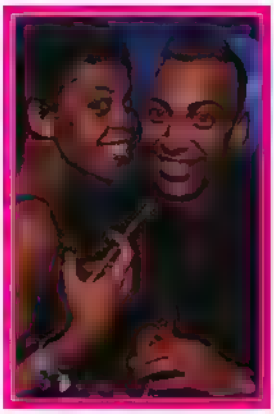
Join DJ Matt for a night of fun right through until the early hours for #JustSaying Saturdays. He'll be playing the latest and greatest tracks for you to dance the night away to.

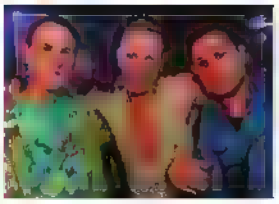
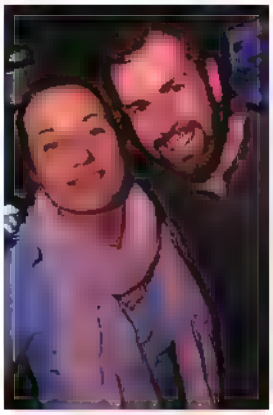
Not only that, but Bar Jester has some pretty special drinks promotions every night of the week. You can grab yourself four bottled beers, four alcopops or three bottled ciders for just a tenner until 2am.

The venue is open seven nights a week, and there's plenty to do. From cabaret to DJs, there's something for everybody. So be sure to pop in there on your next big night out!

*For more information about Bar Jester, visit **www.barjester.co.uk**.*





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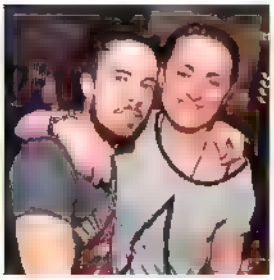
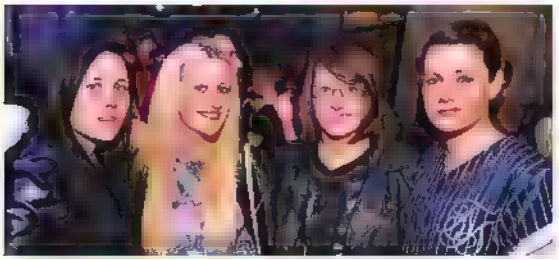
Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Swing by **Sidewalk** for a great start to your night





Whenever you pay a visit to Birmingham's diverse gay village, it's always tough deciding where to go for a good night out.

Before you and your mates head off to a club at the end of the evening, we think you should swing by Sidewalk for a drink or two.

The venue is one of Hurst Street's most popular, and always attracts a great crowd of people.

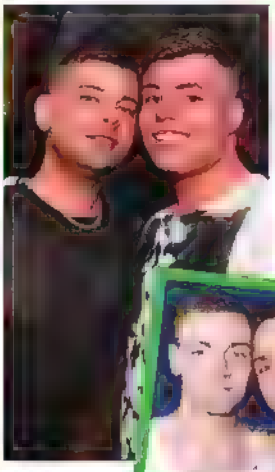
And what's more, it offers cheap drinks (especially on a Thursday night, with £1.50 bombs), great music from DJ Kam and a dancefloor experience that's well worth a try-out.

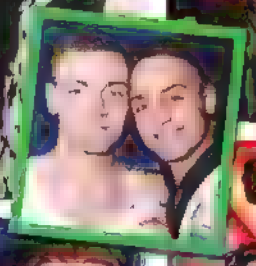
If you're on the lookout for food, check out Sidewalk's new menu of top dishes. The food's cheap, tastes great, and will certainly help line your stomach in preparation for a wild night out.

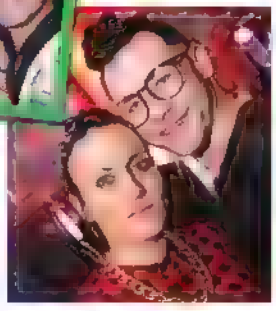
This month sees Sidewalk hosting its first Sidefest event - a day of live acoustic music, a BBQ and much, much more. Check out our Scene diary for more information.

So there you have it, folks - Sidewalk in a nutshell. Drop in the next time you're in Brum - we promise you won't be disappointed.

For more information about Sidewalk, visit www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

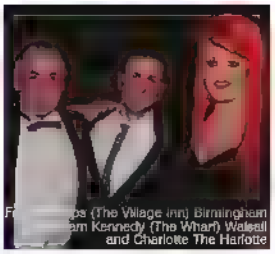






Ginger Karl (left) with Lee Edward

Pictures by **Laura Byrne and Anthony Collins**


Fr[illegible]ps (The Village Inn) Birmingham [illegible]am Kennedy (The Wharf) Walsall and Charlotte The Harlotte

Leanne Jones

Walsall parties on at popular gay venue **The Lion Bar & Club!**

If you live in Walsall, you're lucky to have such a great gay venue as The Lion Bar & Club! Run for over 25 years by owner Eric Cooke, The Lion always attracts a diverse bunch of customers, all of whom have one thing in common - they love having fun

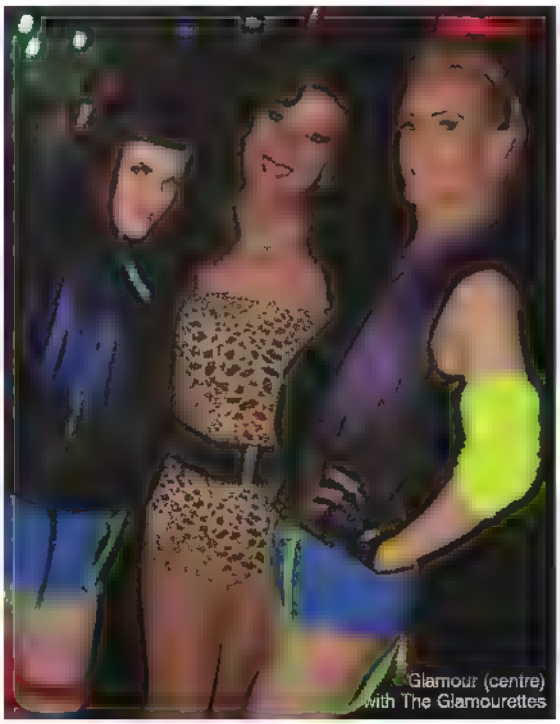
Last month saw The Lion host the official after-party for the Walsall Pride Ball, complete with special guest star Leanne Jones from the popular musical Hairspray

The award-winning actress scored a major hit with the crowd, who certainly weren't slow to show their appreciation!

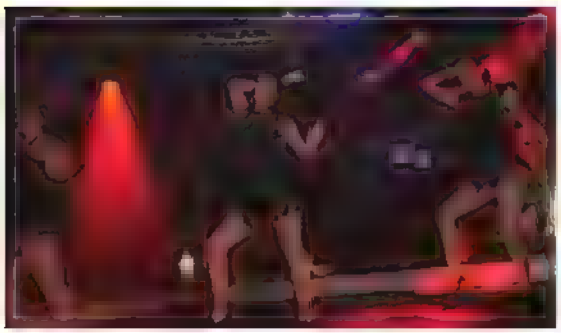
With the summer now well on its way, The Lion is the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing pint in a beer garden.

And the ever-popular venue even has its very own swimming pool - so if it's a nice day, why not pop along with your trunks and enjoy a dip!

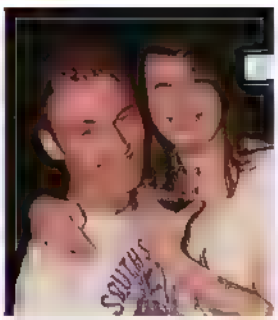
For more information about The Lion Bar & Club in Walsall, visit ***www.lionbarandclub.co.uk*** *or call* ***01922 610977.***


Glamour (centre) with The Glamourettes

More great photos on **facebook**



Manager Zac with DJ Dan



Pictures by **Kris Green**

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See pictures on page 60

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See pictures on page 55

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THE NIGHTINGALE p53 p84
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See pictures on page 61

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THE VILLAGE INN p56 & 57
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Tel: 0121 622 4742
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THE RED LION
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Tel: 01922 637790

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Tel: 01902 427247

THE WHITE HART
[illegible]
WV2 4LQ
Tel: [illegible]

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THE FLAG
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Tel: 01905 780467

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Angel Row WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20213

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CURZONS
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Tel: 01332 363739

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
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Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
44 Belgrave St. LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St. LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7[illegible]8

SLOANES
3 New Walk LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
(YOLO, Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate. LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

LOUGHBOROUGH

PROUD @ GALLERY
Gay night every Thursday
2 Swan Street LE11 5BL
Tel: 01509 216[illegible]8

MANSFIELD

CHEEKY MONKEY
Leeming St NG18 1NG
Tel: 1623 [illegible]330

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St. NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Anns St NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 9[illegible]8 0402

THE NEWMARKET INN
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Street. NG1 3BA (Gay
Friendly)

NG1 CLUB
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St. NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

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Happy Days

Television viewers of a certain age will well remember Happy Days, the legendary US sitcom about Milwaukee-based family the Cunninghams, set in the rock n'roll days of the 1950s. The show scored a massive hit with 1970s and 80s telly-watchers, in the process making a star of Henry Winkler the actor who immortalised the character of the self-styled King of Cool, Arthur 'The Fonz' Fonzarelli. This brand new musical promises to reacquaint fans of the TV series with all their favourite characters, including Potsie, Ralph Malph, Joanie Chachi and Pinky Tuscadero, the latter being played on this occasion by former Sugababes and Atomic Kitten star Heidi Range.

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 10 - Sat 14 June, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, Mon 30 June - Sat 5 July

Annie Get Your Gun

Jason Donovan returns to the Midlands this month to star in this major new version of the Tony Award-winning musical. Donovan, who's previously appeared in the region in stage productions of Priscilla Queen Of The Desert, The Rocky Horror Show and Sweeney Todd, plays the sharpshooting Frank Butler, appearing alongside Emma Williams as Annie Oakley and Norman Pace as Buffalo Bill. The show was written by Irving Berlin in 1946 and includes such famous numbers as There's No Business Like Show Business and Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better.

"I've been very lucky in having some great roles to get my teeth into in the past," says Jason, "but now having the chance to star in the UK premiere production of this award winning version of such a classic musical is very exciting. I'm very much looking forward to performing such brilliant songs and appearing alongside a truly great cast, as we bring the Wild West to theatres across the country."

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 10 - Sat 14 June; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 1 - Sat 5 July; Malvern Theatre, Mon 28 July - Sat 2 August

Dawn French

One of the UK's foremost and best-loved comedians, Dawn French is this month visiting the Midlands as part of her first ever solo tour.

The Vicar Of Dibley star stops off in the region with a show entitled 30 Million Minutes, roughly the amount of time, according to Dawn's calculations, that she's been alive. "I'm sick with excitement about this solo tour," says Dawn, "I'm enjoying the fact that I can't categorise exactly what it is, but it's somewhere between a monologue, a play, and an autobiographical slideshow with a few funnies thrown in."

Dawn's previously toured with her longtime comedy partner Jennifer Saunders, and has also trodden the boards as Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream. In 2003, she starred at the Apollo Shaftsbury in Geraldine Aron's one-woman play My Brilliant Divorce.

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 13 June; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham Weds 18 - Fri 20 June

Jason Manford

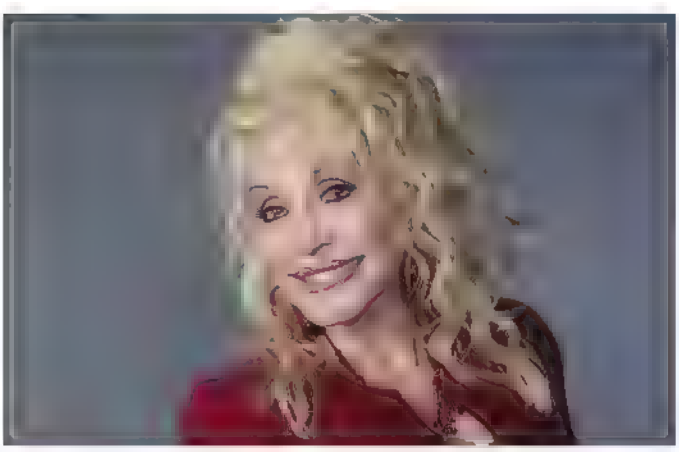
Despite winning ITV1 charity-based talent competition Born To Shine, putting his new-found talent into practice by joining Alfie Boe on tour, and then starring in the critically acclaimed West End production of Sweeney Todd alongside Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton, Jason Manford hasn't forgotten his stand-up roots. The comedian is making numerous visits to the Midlands over the next few weeks with his First World Problems tour, which he describes as "essentially moaning about everyday life, but with punchlines". Should be good.

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 13 June, Crewe Lyceum, Weds 25 June; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Weds 9 July; Oakengates theatre, Telford, Tues 15 July; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Weds 16 July

Pet Shop Boys

The always-sensational Pet Shop Boys hit Birmingham and the LG Arena this month with a stage show that's an absolute must-see. Stopping off in the Midlands on their Electric tour, the fellas will be regaling fans with their greatest hits - and there's certainly no shortage of those! The boys have not only sold more than 50 million records worldwide, they've also been listed by The Guinness Book of Records as the most successful duo in UK music history

LG Arena, Birmingham, Fri 13 June



Dolly Parton

Now here's a woman who's always had an 'upfront' sense of fun. Dolly Parton is one of the biggest and best-known names in country music - and with a larger-than-life personality further recommending her, it's little wonder she's a living legend. Inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, Dolly is the most honoured female country performer of all time, and boasts a back-catalogue of classic hits that includes 9 To 5, Here You Come Again, Jolene and I Will Always Love You. She visits Birmingham as part of a world tour in support of her forty-second studio album, Blue Smoke.

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sun 22 June, Capital FM Arena, Nottingham, Wed 2 July

Remi Harris Trio & TG Collective

The young and contemporary Remi Harris Trio bring together traditional gypsy jazz and swing characteristics with influences from bebop, blues, rock, world music, contemporary jazz and popular melodies. They're joined for this Studio gig at Warwick Arts Centre by instrumental seven-piece TG Collective, whose sound features an intriguing mix of gypsy jazz, flamenco, jazz and contemporary classical music. Greatly admired for the intensity of their live performances, their original arrangements touch on influences as varied as Paco de Lucia, Django Reinhardt and JS Bach

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 5 June

Thea Gilmore

A distinctly English take on the angst-rock blueprint of American artists such as Ani DiFranco and Alanis Morissette has seen Thea Gilmore gain both a cult following and critical acclaim. Thea has played to sell-out crowds throughout the UK, and has appeared at major events such as T In The Park, V Festival and Cambridge Folk. She visits the Midlands following the massive success of her 2013 album Regardless, which featured the hit single Love Came Looking For Me

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 4 June; The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Fri 6 June

George Benson

With a career spanning more than four decades behind him, the hugely talented George Benson is one of the most respected performers in modern music. A formidable jazz master, George has also enjoyed great success in the worlds of pop and R&B music, along the way garnering a reputation for excellence that's seen him collect no fewer than ten Grammy Awards

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 22 June

Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie CERT tbc

Starring **Brendan O'Carroll, Eilish O'Carroll, Nick Nevern, Paddy Houlihan** Directed by **Ben Kellett (Ireland/UK)**

Since the phenomenal success of The Inbetweeners Movie, there's nothing to stop the flood of smutty TV series to the big screen. This one is a spin-off of Mrs Brown's Boys, in which the Irish writer and comedian Brendan O'Carroll played Agnes Brown, based on his own books and radio show. Here, Mrs Brown's fruit & veg stall is threatened by developers, so she enlists the help of a troupe of blind Ninja assassins and a barrister with Tourette's Syndrome. Incidentally, O'Carroll's Agnes Brown [sic] was previously played on screen by Anjelica Huston. You couldn't make it up. Out 27 June

22 Jump Street

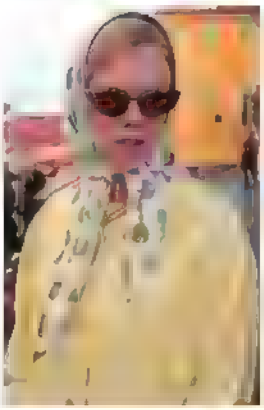
CERT tbc

Starring **Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum, Ice Cube, Dave Franco, Nick Offerman** Directed by **Phil Lord and Chris Miller (USA)**

21 Jump Street, the film of the 1987-1991 TV series, was crass, crude and hugely successful. To be fair, Hill and Tatum worked up an engaging chemistry and this time they pair up as co-producers. The twist now is that the overgrown kids-cum-cops are put on a mission to infiltrate college. Expect a cameo from Brad Pitt. Out 6 June

Grace Of Monaco

CERT PG (103 mins)



Starring **Nicole Kidman, Tim Roth, Frank Langella, Parker Posey, Milo Ventimiglia, Derek Jacobi, Paz Vega, Robert Lindsay** Directed by **Olivier Dahan (USA/Monaco /France/Belgium, Italy)**

Olivier Dahan's biopic (slated at Cannes) deals with the marital crisis of the former Grace Kelly, who went from Hollywood royalty to bona fide European sovereignty. Tim Roth, a fine actor, seems an odd choice to play Prince Rainier III, but then Dahan did help to earn Marion Cotillard an Oscar for playing Edith Piaf (in La Vie En Rose). Out 6 June

Jersey Boys CERT 15 (134 mins)

Starring **John Lloyd Young, Erich Bergen, Michael Lamenda, Vincent Piazza, Christopher Walken** Directed by **Clint Eastwood (USA)**

Before The Beatles, the most popular rock band of all time was The Four Seasons. With number one hits like Sherry, Big Boys Don't Cry, Walk Like a Man and Rag Doll, the group racked up sales of an estimated one hundred million records worldwide. The Broadway musical that chronicled their amazing career went on to win four Tony awards and, in London, ensnared the Olivier for best new musical. Now Clint Eastwood at a sprightly eighty-four years of age has brought the musical to the big screen. Eastwood, while best known for Westerns and .44 Magnums, is a musical aficionado, having composed the scores for eight of his own films and originally intended to be a musician and not an actor (he still loves playing the piano). So, this could be a match made in Heaven. Out 20 June

Belle CERT 12a (104 mins)

Starring **Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Tom Wilkinson, Miranda Richardson, Penelope Wilton, Matthew Goode, Emily Watson**
Directed by **Amma Asante (UK)**

Based on true events, this is the story of Dido Elizabeth Belle (Mbatha-Raw), a former slave who is brought up by her great uncle. What is surprising is that Dido is mixed race and her uncle was the 1st Earl of Mansfield, William Murray (Wilkinson). Consequently, Dido is raised as an aristocrat. Mbatha-Raw herself was born in Oxford and made her film debut opposite Tom Hanks in Larry Crowne (2011). Out 13 June

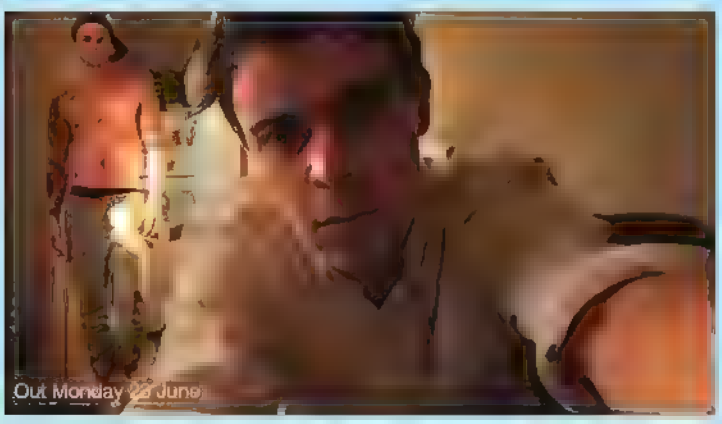
DVDs

My Last Round (15)

Octavio is a prize-winning boxer living in the south of Chile. When he meets the young and attractive Hugo, everything in which he believes is brought into question.
As their relationship blossoms, Octavio realises that he must sacrifice his love of boxing. The couple move to Santiago, where they can fulfil their dreams and be together, away from the scrutiny of those around them. But nothing turns out as planned, as Hugo is seduced by the temptations of the big city.
Octavio makes a new attempt at boxing – except this time, he's not looking for victory but a cure for his heartache.
Both he and Hugo soon realise his forthcoming fight could either be a new way out – or his very last round.

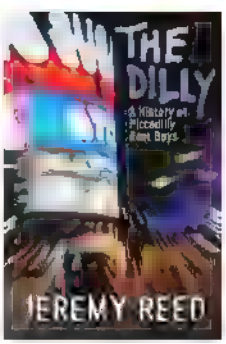
Getting Go: The Go Doc Project (15)

College boy Doc is obsessed with a well-known NYC go-go boy. He befriends his hunky crush with the intention of shooting a documentary about what it's like to live in his skin. But as the pair grow closer, flirtation blurs the line between subject and filmmaker, until a steamy night together solidifies deeper feelings.
Cory Kruekeberg's explicit directorial debut explores the thrill and danger of getting exactly what you wished for.



...and something to read

The Dilly: A Secret History Of Piccadilly Rent Boys by Jeremy Reed



Piccadilly Circus has long been London's primary location for selling sex. This is the first book to explore the history of male prostitution at the popular meeting-point, affectionately referred to as 'The Dilly'. From Oscar Wilde's use of the location for pick-ups, through Francis Bacon's attraction to rough trade, and right up to the present day, this pioneering work displays the author's flair for acute visual imagery as he maps out Soho's submerged gay clubs and drinking-rooms in the decades before homosexuality was decriminalised.

New Music

A.K.A.
Jennifer Lopez

JLo's eighth studio album, A.K.A. features production and songwriting from big names including Max Martin, Diplo and Ryan Tedder. Collaborating artists include Iggy Azalea, Pitbull and Nas.

X
Ed Sheeran

Following the massive success of his debut album, +, which sold more than one million copies, Ed Sheeran returns with his follow-up. Having written over 120 songs for the album, Sheeran has picked the best with the help of pals Rick Rubin, Pharrell Williams and producer Jake Gosling.

Stockholm
Chrissie Hynde

Pretenders singer Chrissie Hynde releases her debut solo album this month. It's a 'power pop offering that has a real 'Abba meets Elton John' feel to it. Eleven tracks long, it includes the single Dark Sunglasses.

Tired of a stale, over priced and commercialised LGBT scene in Birmingham? Sick of YOUR rights being nothing but a trend? Want to take action to achieve real change for the LGBTQ community? Come to the new Birmingham LGBTQ activist group, based at the LGBT Centre on Holloway Circus, on June 20th at 5pm for our first big meeting! Have your say in how we should take action, all welcome, all listened to no hierarchies!
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Suite 3, 1st Floor Lanchard House, Victoria Street, **West Bromwich** B70 8ER
info@shsl.org.uk / 01384 243 220
summit house

Daniel Hogberg/Folio/imagebank.sweden.se

Awaken Your Senses

Let's face it, the West Midlands is as land-locked as it gets. But just under a couple of hours flight away from Birmingham International, you'll find a unique destination by the sea, one of Europe's most appealing city breaks and a well-kept secret by those in the know. Gothenburg, Sweden's second city, boasts a cosmopolitan vibe and is located in an amazing urban-natural environment.

Listen

Gothenburg showcases the best in homegrown and international music. Way Out West, at the end of the summer, is a huge music festival that attracts a massive gay following - especially from the UK, due to Sweden's close proximity and the acts who perform at the event... West Pride, meanwhile, Gothenburg's Pride festival, is considered to be one of the most community-focused Pride festivals in Europe and is based around arts and culture.

Taste

A foodie's paradise, Gothenburg offers everything from Michelin outposts to local hangouts. Moreover, the city is a haven for seafood lovers. Have a long summer dinner (the sun sets late, if at all) at a waterside restaurant. Cuckoo's Nest, Restaurant Gabriel and the splendid Riverton View Skybar & Restaurant are just three from numerous options.

Smell

One thing we miss in the West Midlands is that briny smell of fresh sea air. From central Gothenburg, it's just a short trip to both the Northern and the Southern islands of the magnificent West Sweden archipelago. The Southern islands are car-free, and you get there by ferry from the boat terminal Saltholmen. To get to the Northern islands, take the ferry from Lilla Varholmen on Hisingen.

Feel

Gothenburg is one of the safest cities in Europe. It also has a thriving gay scene and a beautiful, fun-loving LGBTQ population. This charming city has established itself as one of Scandinavia's foremost gay destinations, offering a wide range of entertainment, activities and locations for gay people to enjoy. A visit to the legendary Bee Kitchen & Bar in the heart of the city is a must, before partying into the night with the locals at other lively gay bars and clubs.

See

There are plenty of ways to explore Gothenburg. To really make the most of its seaside feel, take the popular sightseeing boat Paddan and enjoy a classic tour under the bridges and out in the harbour. During the summer you can enjoy a boat trip in the archipelago and experience Gothenburg's urban nature at its best.

Useful Information

One of the most talked-about places to stay in the city is the Mornington Hotel Stravaganza. The name says it all. This charming design-led hotel is located at Avenyn Boulevard in the city centre, with cosy rooms and friendly staff. It features a fantastic coffee bar for you caffeine addicts out there, and is the perfect place to recharge your batteries for your next Gothenburg adventure. See **www.mornington.se/goteborg** for more.

bmi regional flies direct to Gothenburg from Birmingham International airport, offering great value deals on flights. Check out **www.bmiregional.com** for more details.

If you've got a nose for a great deal, then pick up a Gothenburg City Card, which gives 48 hours access to public transport and loads of attractions. Find out more about the Gothenburg City Card at **www.goteborg.com**

For the very latest goings-on, inspiration and low-down on gay-friendly Gothenburg, check out www.goteborg.com/en

Dedicated support worker for Leicester's South Asian LGBT community

The South Asian LGBT community in Leicester now has a dedicated South Asian support worker.

Makinder Chaha is the newest member of the team at Trade Sexual Health.

"My role is primarily to be the go-to guy for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's South Asian LGBT community," says Makinder. "A minority within a minority, so all the more reason to be here and to have a presence, to show the area that we, as a community, do exist."

Makinder will be working on a number of projects throughout Leicestershire in the forthcoming months, with his efforts being channelled into the provision of better access to services and information for the South Asian LGBT community. He will also be working on the promotion of targeted health and wellbeing messages.

"I can speak for myself when I say that, as a gay South Asian guy, it can initially be tough having to deal with your sexual orientation or sexual behaviour as well as having the pressures of culture, religion and

family all added into the mix. That's where I come in. As well as providing information and one-to-one support around mental health and sexual health, I will also be that guy who's there as someone to talk to when you feel like nobody understands what you're going through or who you are."

Makinder also facilitates a group called Dosti - a social and support group for guys who like guys, which is held every last Sunday of the month from 5pm till 8pm at a Leicester city centre location.

If you want more information or are interested in accessing the new services at Trade, email Makinder@tradesexualhealth.com or call 0116 254 1747.

LGBT alcohol support group celebrates 10th anniversary

A Birmingham-based alcohol support group is this month celebrating its 10th anniversary.

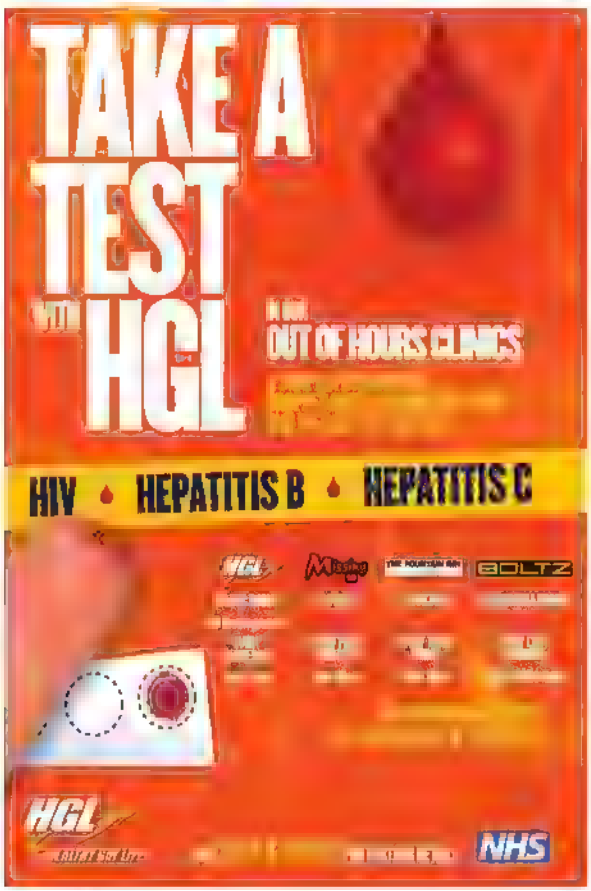
The LGBT Alcohol Support Group meets in the LGBT Centre every Tuesday from 7.30pm until 9pm.

"We've had our ups and downs since that first evening in 2004," says Group Chair Tony Spiteri, "but we managed to sort things out and have seen a substantial number of people walking through our doors, offloading troubles, sharing hopes and fears, some seeking help, others seeking support. We've had the occasional argument, as is to be expected in every group of people from different backgrounds, but we're still here!"

Looking back on the last decade, Tony says that, however bumpy the journey's been, he's glad the group has managed to remain intact.

"There's a particular need for a support group whose members can provide a welcoming and open place for gay men and women who have alcohol problems," he says. "We offer a place and a service to which gay people and their partners, family and friends who experience alcohol difficulties can come where they can be safe in the knowledge that they will find others who have experienced the same, and where they can be relaxed and open."

For more information about the group, visit lgbtalcoholsupport.org



Clinic at the Lion Bar & Club
Free & Confidential
Sexual Health Screening
June 28th
July 26th
last Saturday of the month
9pm ~ 11:30pm
Hep B vaccinations & Boosters
Shyphilis/Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea screening
HIV tests
& more
you do not have to be Gay, Male or live in Walsall to take advantage of this service
Walsall HIV Team 07736 124 445
morriscolin@walsall.gov.uk
NHS Walsall
Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41

It started with a film! SAND: Safe Ageing No Discrimination venture launches in Shrewsbury

A new Shropshire-based venture called SAND (Safe Ageing No Discrimination) is set to launch in Shrewsbury next month - and all because a group of strangers went to see a film called Gen (Generation) Silent, which was screened by the Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival as part of LGBT History Month.

Gen Silent tells the stories of a group of older LGBT people in Boston, USA, who fought many of the earliest battles for equality.

In the movie, they talk about the fear of discrimination, bullying and abuse that sees many older LGBT people going 'back into the closet' in order to survive and get the care they might need.

Recognising that many are dying lonely and isolated because they're afraid to ask for help, activists are fighting to make sure that LGBT ageing doesn't mean 'ageing in silence'.

Taking the film as its inspiration, SAND is offering support to its own LGBT community. The group wants to influence those who provide care and other support services to older people, whether in their homes or within a residential care setting.

SAND is aware that lots of people struggle when they get older. However, it also knows that LGBT people often face unique challenges. It's not always about being actively 'excluded', but more about not being 'included' and so becoming invisible again, perhaps separated from support networks and community.

The group also recognises that today's older people were in their 20s and 30s when homosexuality was illegal and persecution was rife. These experiences have an enduring impact on some people's trust of authority, institutions and the world around them. This fact is rarely acknowledged by those upon whom older LGBTs may need to rely for care and support.

SAND has already gained high-profile support from, amongst others, Sandi Toksvig, Peter Tatchell and Tom Robinson, and has attracted a small research grant from HealthWatch Shropshire and interest from the national Social Enterprise support agency Unltd.

The group aims to make sure that anyone providing services for older LGBT people - bereavement counselling, general advice agencies, solicitors, day centres, housing providers, home care services, health services - are aware of their experiences and needs, do not discriminate, and make their services fully accessible.

SAND's launch event is being held at Shrewsbury Baptist Church on 5 July from 3.30pm till 7.30pm, is free to attend and open to LGBT people and their friends. It provides an opportunity to meet some of the SAND team, hear about what's happened so far, contribute ideas and chat with friends over a slice of cake.

You can book using the link on the website
www.[illegible]
email us at LGBTSAND@[illegible]
[illegible]

Do you think you have a drink problem?
Have you recently had a drink problem?
Are you the partner or friend of someone with alcohol related issues?
Would you like support in dealing with the issues?

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham. B1 1EQ
From 7.30pm - 9.00pm

[illegible]

You can email us at

[illegible]

Call us on

[illegible]

Or just Drop In

ALCOHOL GBT SUPPORT GROUP

birmingham lgbt

Trade can support you...

Trade offers FREE and Confidential advice, information and support to the gay and bisexual community of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

Trade is for all of the following:

- Sexual health & HIV information
- Safer sex advice and support
- Information regarding testing for STI's & HIV
- Free 'safer sex packs'
- Telephone help and advice
- Drop-in centre
- Counselling and one-to-one support
- Outreach on the scene
- Volunteering opportunities

TRADE

Visit our website www.tradesexualhealth.com

The Office is Open Monday - Thursday [illegible] - 5.30pm Friday
[illegible]
email [illegible]

ACE A Show of Empathy Meets every Thursday 5 [illegible] Tel [illegible] 4200342

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community. Open to anyone. Contact [illegible] or visit: www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group. Contact [illegible] hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre B'ham [illegible] @houseofbooks.hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra. Contact [illegible] or visit www.[illegible].org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Every Month Tel 01384 812000

GAPP (Gay and Performing Poetry) Birmingham. Call Mike [illegible] 545 30[illegible]91

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent. Tel 07[illegible]7 644887

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT+ Choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester. Call Chris on [illegible] 8[illegible]48

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm. Tel: wayne 01902 552960

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly www.[illegible]filmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call Jon 07974 477206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT Choir. Call [illegible] 928 641464 or Kevin [illegible]943 365850

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading Group. 1st Monday monthly 5.45pm Tel [illegible] 548 349

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History Project Leicestershire & Rutland e: [illegible]@leicesterlgbtcentre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 11am Walsall Central Library. Contact Ruth [illegible] 603121

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every [illegible] afternoon 2.45pm Federation House 39 King St Walsall Tel: 07716 279745

WS-MIDLANDS LGBT Social group. Every 1st Tues monthly 7.9pm in Walsall. Tel: 07895 661557

BRUM BI GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in. Tel 07532 385[illegible]

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month. e: brumdiningout [illegible]

COVENTRY LADS Social group away from the scene. Call [illegible]24 76 224292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester www.dmulgbt.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee network www.derbyshire.gov.uk/councilequalities/[illegible]

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's social group. Tel [illegible] 4

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly. Please phone/text prior to attending. Call Matt Barlow on [illegible]84 248[illegible]

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN [illegible] Tel [illegible]215 Homepage: contact 0121 [illegible]51

EVERGREEN LGBT Social group in Bham. Tel [illegible]749 412[illegible]

FAN LGBT Social Events group. Nottingham. www.fannottingham.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP [illegible] group of over 1,000 members

GAYMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton. Twice monthly. Tues & 1pm Tel [illegible]2 420342

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community social group meets every Thurs @ Gloucs Centre 7.30. Tel: 07050 627273

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's group in The Heath Centre [illegible] Street, Hereford. No appointment necessary

HIV (HIGH 5) Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire. Tel. 0116 254 1747

I ME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton [illegible] every monday Tel [illegible]81 [illegible]

LADS CAFE Shropshire Lesbian & Women. Call [illegible]214[illegible]

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 6.30pm. Tel [illegible]88 [illegible]

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Pub/social for women for all to enjoy. Meet every Tues @ The [illegible] Movement [illegible]g mail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 0116 291 6135

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester Call 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury. lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent. Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley www.gaystoke.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30. Contact [illegible]11594 76868

NUBIAN RAINBOW Community based LGBT people in the community West Midlands social group. Tel [illegible]446 1066

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since [illegible]995. Call [illegible]64 [illegible]50

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West Bham LGBT Group. Offers non-scene social events and activities. Call [illegible]

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm [illegible] Wolves Tel [illegible] 42[illegible]2

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's social and scene group 4th Sat monthly. Please phone/text prior to attending. Call Matt Barlow on [illegible]84 248[illegible]

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at [illegible] 3rd Monday monthly at The Aid 8.15pm Shrewsbury

THIRD WAY Social Group for Bi Zealots over 18. Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton. Tel 7pm Tel [illegible] 42[illegible]2

TRUE COLOURS Derby based LGBT social group. Call [illegible]9 3[illegible]84

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Confidential e-mail to www.brewerystreet.org.uk

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group. Over 18s only e: [illegible]walsall [illegible].com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society. Organises events in and around the University Campus e: hello [illegible]warwickpride.org

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Equalities Policy Email: [illegible]@birmingham.gov.uk

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST Campaigning and consultative philanthropic body. Aims to promote and represent LGBT community's views e: daveviney@lgbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM Forum meets quarterly. Forum open to all LGBT groups for networking e: daveviney@lgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives. Call [illegible] 446 1086

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history project e: dave@gaybirmingham remembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Host numerous social groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community. Tel [illegible]902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: 02476 [illegible]11

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in. Call [illegible]782 425849

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community. Tel [illegible] 622 2[illegible]2

PRISM A forum for LGBT people in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

RAINBOW HERITAGE [illegible] Call 0115 [illegible]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Health events for professionals and the LGBT community. Tel [illegible] 254 1[illegible]47

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry. Meet 2nd Sat, Rainbows Society Club, Jamaica St, [illegible] 4JH or National on [illegible]4 6 23[illegible]49

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER Social group aimed at middle aged LGBT people. Call [illegible] 254 412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. 3rd Sat monthly 12pm 2pm Tel [illegible] 42[illegible]2

LGBT 50+ South Staffs social group, for people 50+ e: [illegible]@[illegible]buddies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am 1pm Call Trevor on [illegible]9 8[illegible]40

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay men. Call Trevor on [illegible] 8[illegible]46

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature over 40's Gay and Bi-sexual men in Wolves. Every Monday 7 4pm Tel [illegible] 42[illegible]2

OLDER LBQ Women's network social group. Lovely Retired Call [illegible]9 [illegible]84

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group. Tel: 01902 425092

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT. Tel: 01782 [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation Drop in classes. Tel: 0121 449 52[illegible]

BIRMINGHAM L.G.C.M. Christian Organisation group. Tel [illegible]43 [illegible]345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact The Revd Chris Coward on 01380 724908

DERBY QUEST for [illegible]ality Sun 5 6.30pm Tel [illegible] 512957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham: Call: 0121 [illegible]44 43[illegible] Wolverhampton: Call [illegible]54 155[illegible]4

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people [illegible] Call [illegible] 42[illegible]5

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and gay Christians [illegible] Tel [illegible] 4[illegible] [illegible]943 [illegible]345

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship. Social and supportive group founded on Quaker Spiritual principles. www.qlgf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national confidential telephone helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Christians. Tel [illegible] 808 [illegible]4

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans. All Major Paths welcome. Call Rod [illegible]943 [illegible]

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS Support group for lesbian and gay Christians e: [illegible]@hotmail.com or call Sally, 4 [illegible]84 88

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Friendly Football Team. [illegible] @[illegible].bham.[illegible]42@[illegible].com

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT friendly Rugby Team. Call Andy [illegible]8 [illegible]416 or visit: [illegible]birminghambullsrfc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in South Birmingham. www.bournvillehockeyclub.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team. Call Gareth [illegible]16 270 [illegible]37

LGBT Community Indoor Football. Wolverhampton. Tel [illegible] 42[illegible]2

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7 8.30pm. Tel: 0121 643 082[illegible]

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton. Tel [illegible]902 42[illegible]

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays. Contact: [illegible]@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON [illegible] Call Andy on [illegible]4 [illegible]349 47

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's GOC Gay Swim Group. For info call 0121 346 1522

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOIS Gay [illegible] meets Thursdays in Leeds. Call [illegible]48 [illegible]492

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads. www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB [illegible] Andy on [illegible]82 266998 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel [illegible] 42[illegible]2

WOLVES WARRIORS Football [illegible] Tel Andy on [illegible]82 [illegible]0

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week. www.bculgbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students' Union. www.yosu.org.com

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel [illegible] 204 [illegible]

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University: contact Ann e: [illegible]@le.ac.uk or Hayley e: [illegible]@le.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesdays & Sundays e: lgbtq@guild.bham.ac.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] hoogroups.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women's lesbian book group. Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-5pm. Tel [illegible] 622 32[illegible]

BI WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information [illegible] e: [illegible]@[illegible].co.uk

BOOTWOMEN Walks in the Midlands area. Call [illegible]905 [illegible]

BORDER WOMEN Network for lesbian and Bi women. www.borderwomen.net

L:BOW ROOM Social Group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly. Tel [illegible] 3[illegible]82

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film club every 3rd Sunday monthly. www.foxbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets on every [illegible] social. e: [illegible]@blueyonder.co.uk

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP MORE EXPOSURE?

We're always looking for: • Community News • Community Groups to feature in our Community Profiles

If you want to feature your group, contact Ryan Humphreys, Editor, on [illegible]743 281722

To find out more about all these organisations and their websites and contact details

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact on- sue@hotmail .co.uk

RUBY'S Mature Women s Group Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian bisexual and questioning women of all ages. We nesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call: 01782 266998

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly. e. me_myself_ 179@outlook.com

[redacted]

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGB Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester Call: 0116 254 7412

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young [redacted] aged 18 and Under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young L[redacted] Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for [redacted] Tel: 0115 [redacted]

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield Tel: 07795 611781

SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21 Tel: 01543 41[redacted]

SPECTRUM YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people Meet twice monthly on Sundays Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

X2Y Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. e info@x2y.org.uk

[redacted]

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV Call 0121 622 6471

[redacted] Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 6670 (5 lines).

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV&AIDS related issues in the Dudley Sandwell borough Tel: 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs Birmingham: 0121 694 6440 Solihull: 0121 694 6440 Coventry: 02476 229292 Nottingham: 0115 852 [redacted] Telford 01952 221410 Wolves. 01902 711815

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs Leicester Tel. 0116 254 1747

[redacted]

COVENTRY & WARWICK SHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266998 (Loleta Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel: 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat. Summit House, Dudley Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs Tel: 01782 266998

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 8455 or 01623 621515

RAINBOW SUPPORT HEREFORDSHIRE free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGB communities Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime Tel 0300 303 1977

[redacted]

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing Cafe, Community Groups, Events and more. Tel 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel 01743 344474

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West Tel 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk In Service every morning from 9 30am 11 30am. Tel 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham: Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Call 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GOAL STREET Open Monday Friday Call 01432 378915 for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House, West Bromwich. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

LGBT SOUTH [redacted] Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call Matt 07980 906895

OUTWINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support. Call Matt Barlow 07980 906895

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month Held at The Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for L GB men and women and support for those affected by HIV & STIs including sexual health testing services. Leicester Tel 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: 01922 6[redacted]41

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN S HEALTH Project providing free, confidential advice & support Tel 01905 6817[redacted]

[redacted]

ABplus Poz Gay Men s Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support Call: Peter on 07960 404926

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery LGBT Group Call Emma 07817 745079

[redacted]

SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Maureen on 0121 742 0230

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester Call 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call 02476 714199 Mon Fri 7:30pm 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: lisa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. call 07779 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIV (HIGH 5) An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events, outings. Leicester Tel 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Call 01952 221410

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Call: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel 0121 440 6161 Email: info@hgl.nhs.uk

KETTERING OUT AND PROUD ASSOCIATION Organises support in the Kettering area Call 07877 825235

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems Tel Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire Tel 01782 266998

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS In Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly Tel 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact Alison Lesbian Homeopath. Tel 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Wed. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E. pink parents@virginmedia.com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel past & present. Helpline: 0870 [redacted]40 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 200 1695

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-In Service Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

STONEWALL Free information service Tel: 08000 50 20 20

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone Tel: 07542 070 240

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

[redacted]

GENDER MATTERS Drop-in every Thurs. Tel: 01902 [redacted]

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook.com [redacted]

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email sally@outskirtgtg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtstg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans, Transvestite or Transgender Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly Tel: 01902 425092

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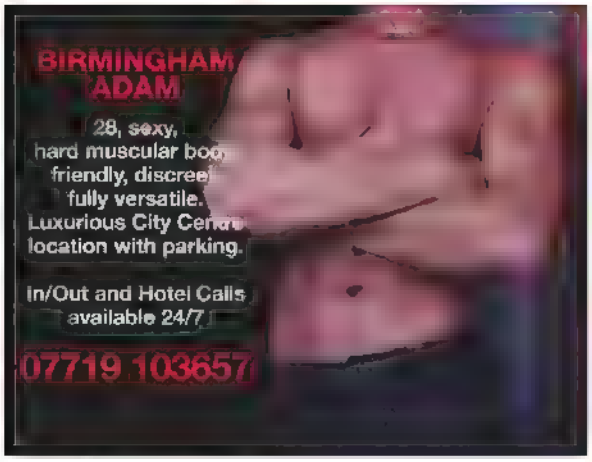
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For information Check out the above venue adverts in this issue

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1 Lenox Street Nottingham NG1 1ER
citysteam.co.uk

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3 5 Lower High Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1TE
heroeshealthclub.com

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71 Ratcliffe Gate Mansfield NG18 2LB
manzfields.co.uk

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THE GUDRUN LIMBRICK COLUMN

It Shouldn't Really Matter

Sitting at the bus stop the other day, someone with a dog (bitch) sat down next to me. Not too exciting so far, as stories go, but bear with me...

The thing that occurred to me, as we sat there waiting for a cliché and three buses to come along at once (they didn't, by the way; we just got the one bus - the cliché must've been running late) was that I had no idea of the gender of the person sat next to me.

The hair, clothes and shoes were all pretty gender-neutral, as was the side view that I had. And the dog (bitch) was giving nothing away about her owner. I took a sly look at the hands - hairless, pale, unringed, shortish (and mercifully cleanish) nails. They were hands that could have belonged to anyone. Even the voice offered no clues - but then how many ways can you say 'Sit!'? I think the order was barked at the dog (bitch) but I'm not sure.

It seems to me that this is a more regular occurrence these days, which says that either androgyny is on the increase or I should have gone to Spec Savers (other shops selling glasses are available, but I have no idea what their catchphrases are).

And it doesn't matter. I have no need to know who's female and who's male. In the vast majority of situations, it doesn't make any difference to me at all. The problem is that our language, and specifically the way in which we refer to individuals, is so geared towards gender that we're completely lost when we don't know who's female and who's male.

Linguistic niceties dictate that we can't refer to someone as 'it' (whether or not we know the gender). I've got into trouble with several new parents in this way when I fail to identify the gender of their baby (if truth be told, I'm better at sexing hamsters than human babies). And we tend to stumble with referring to someone as 'the person'. Our language is very much geared towards pinpointing someone's gender immediately. And this surely can't be right.

There are many times when a person's gender isn't relevant, isn't known, or isn't interesting, yet we can't reflect this in our language. If we genuinely could refer to people in a gender-neutral way, surely that would help with equality. Surely it would mean that we wouldn't have to spend so much time wondering and looking for clues - although what else is there to do while you're waiting for a bus? I could pet the dog, I suppose (bitch). And perhaps, just perhaps, new parents wouldn't get so upset when I refer to their gurgling new bundle of cuteness as 'it'.

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

A Warm Glow

By most people's standards, May was a fairly good month for LGBTs. It was a month when three things happened that would've been inconceivable less than ten years ago.

First, an event that was hardly a political earthquake but a symbol of increased national tolerance, nonetheless. Three French men dancing in high heels to the Spice Girls won the unanimous support of the Britain's Got Talent judges and a standing ovation. And the equally adorable Conchita Wurst, a bearded drag queen from Austria, won the Eurovision Song Contest.

The Austrian president, Heinz Fischer, said it was "not just a victory for Austria but, above all, for diversity and tolerance in Europe". Conchita's win outraged many homophobes in Russia. Some men posted pictures of themselves shaving off their beards in public, and the Russian Nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky declared that "there's no limit to our outrage. It's the end of Europe. They don't have men and women anymore. They have 'it'."

Thirdly, rather less glamourously but just as significantly, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, announced new measures to stamp out anti-gay bullying in state schools, describing homophobia as "absolutely anathema to Christian practice". It's been a hell of a long time coming, but Welby's assertion that teachers should never use the Bible to justify homophobia is an important step - in some ways, a leap - out of the Dark Ages into a more tolerant and diverse society.

There seems to be a new confidence amongst the LGBT community here in the UK. Many have gotten over the fact that "Some people are gay".

But just as I was about to sign off this column, I heard about the recent International Gay Association report stating that 2.7 billion people live in countries where being gay is punishable by imprisonment, flogging or even death. And there's not a single country where LGBT people enjoy equal legal rights with their heterosexual counterparts. Those of us lucky enough to live in the West may enjoy the warm glow of acceptance, but until such time as all of our brothers and sisters can live without fear of being themselves, the campaign for true LGBT equality continues.

Quotes of the month...

Here we take some of our favourite (and often controversial) comments from www.midlandszone.co.uk, Facebook page and Twitter feed...

Chart topper Sam Smith talks openly about being gay

To be honest what's the big deal? People come out every day of the week and they dont have a news item about them. We are fighting for equality and then the media takes a step back for us by making a big deal about celebrities coming out.
Darren Hall (via Facebook)

Maybe it shouldn't be big news, but it is! I also think it's important that people in the public eye should come out. Every person who comes out is a step forward in the right direction and shouldn't be seen as a negative.
Chris Darlington (via Facebook)

True, but people don't come out and say they are straight! So why should it be different, I don't like the fact you feel you have to come out.
Darren Turner (via Facebook)

Because being in the public eye makes you more open to homophobic comments. Fair play to them coming out and being open about who they are.
Abii Douthwaite (via Facebook)

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